



NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST

HELP LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY FOR THE NORTHWOODS

Wisconsin's 2007 Land Trust of the Year!

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

Winter 2008

Over 3,000 acres now protected by the Northwoods Land Trust!

The Northwoods Land Trust (NWLTL) finished a record year and has reached another major milestone in their land conservation efforts with private landowners. According to Executive Director Bryan Pierce, as of the close of 2007, over 3,250 acres of natural shorelands, woodlands and wetlands have now been protected in perpetuity, up from 2,000 acres in 2006.

According to Pierce, this Wisconsin 2007 Land Trust of the Year award winner has received a total of 32 land protection agreements, or conservation easements, granted to date. He noted that the land trust has now provided enhanced protection to over **9.5 miles of lake frontage** and over **4.5 miles of river shorelines**.

"We've worked with private landowners to voluntarily conserve natural shorelands on 28 different lakes and eight rivers and streams," Pierce said. "These projects have included protection of all or parts of sixteen, mostly undeveloped wild lakes. These small wild lakes have seen increasing development pressures recently as fewer and fewer lots are available on the larger, more developed lakes."



Over 300 acres and 1.4 miles of shoreline frontage along the Pelican River in Oneida County were conserved by Roland and Ruth Rueckert.

"In 2007 we added nine additional conservation easements granted to the land trust," Pierce said. "These projects are located in Vilas and Oneida counties and spread out in nine different towns. We also serve as a backup-holder and provided technical assistance for an additional land protection project granted to the Last Wilderness Conservation Association in Presque Isle."

Highlights of these conservation efforts included protecting almost a half mile of frontage on the upper Wisconsin River with three different projects – one in the town of Conover, one in Pine Lake, and the other in Crescent. These conservation easements were granted by June (Al) Wedell of Eagle River, Bill and Joy Vancos of Rhinelander, and Harry and Candy Whidden, also of Rhinelander. Almost a mile-and-a-half of entirely natural shoreline frontage was also protected along the Pelican River southeast of Rhinelander by Roland and Ruth Rueckert of Madison.

Other conservation easements were granted to protect shoreland properties on the following lakes: Big Portage Lake in the town of Land O' Lakes in Vilas County by

(Continued next page)



Walter and Janet Wellenstein permanently protected 595 acres surrounding McCabe Lake, a "wild lake" in Oneida County.

mission:

The Northwoods Land Trust (NWLTL) 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



2007 Summary - continued

Sybil and Howard Holtzer of Philadelphia, PA; Marion Lake in the town of Minocqua in Oneida County by Albert and Kathryn Nagy of San Juan Capistrano, CA; Big Stone Lake in the town of Three Lakes by Virginia and John Elsen of Boca Grande, FL; Range Line Lake in the town of Cloverland in Vilas County by Tom (Ellen) Katsich of Eagle River; and McCabe and Mudhen Lakes in the town of Newbold in Oneida County by Walter and Janet Wellenstein of Wauwatosa, WI.

“We want to express our sincerest thanks to each of these landowners for their outstanding commitment to conservation,” said Pierce. “They have left an incredible, lasting legacy of wild lands and pristine waters for future generations.”

The year 2007 also brought the second outright donation of conservation land to the Northwoods Land Trust. “We are very excited to be able to receive the 32-acre Holmboe Conifer Forest as a land transfer from The Nature Conservancy of Wisconsin,” said Pierce. “We are delighted to take over the management responsibilities for this outstanding climax forest of giant hemlocks, pines and sugar maple.”

“We welcome the public to hike the nature trails on this beautiful area just outside of the city of Rhinelander in Oneida County,” he said. A trail map for the property can be downloaded from the land trust’s web site at: www.northwoodslandtrust.org.

“The Holmboe Conifer Forest property also protects about a third of a mile of shoreline along the Pelican River,” Pierce said. “With the site continuing to grow into old-growth forest conditions, the property has been dedicated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as a State Natural Area for its exceptional natural resource values.”

“In part because of the incentive of enhanced federal income tax benefits that were in effect only through the end of the year, we were able to complete a record eleven land conservation transactions in 2007,” said Pierce. “With the exceptional interest landowners have shown for voluntarily conserving their properties, we certainly hope the bills now before Congress to extend those income tax benefits will pass soon.”

Left: Since 1969, Sybil Holtzer has worked to protect 750 feet of natural shoreline on Big Portage Lake in Vilas County. This site was designated as a critical “sensitive area” on the lake by a DNR study. With a perpetual conservation easement granted in 2007, the land is now protected.



As a buffer for adjacent Vilas County Forest lands, only limited development will be allowed on the 18.7-acre Katsich property on Range Line Lake.

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.

NWLT received the Wisconsin 2007 Land Trust of the Year Award!

We are excited to report that Gathering Waters Conservancy, the statewide service center for Wisconsin's 50 non-profit land trusts, selected the Northwoods Land Trust to be Wisconsin's 2007 Land Trust of the Year Award recipient.

This honor was recognized the evening of September 20th as part of the Gathering Waters Conservancy Annual Awards Banquet at the Monona Terrace in Madison. We greatly appreciate this outstanding recognition!

According to Mike Strigel, Executive Director of Gathering Waters Conservancy, "in just six short years, the Northwoods Land Trust has established an impressive track record of conservation in an area of Wisconsin where development pressure has never been higher."

"The Northwoods Land Trust operates in a region of magnificent woods and pristine lakes and rivers, an area that is also threatened by rapidly increasing population and development. It has shown dedication and spirit in providing landowners a means to counter this challenge and help keep the Northwoods the Northwoods," said Willa Schmidt, NWLT board member and volunteer.



NWLT Executive Director Bryan Pierce accepts the Wisconsin 2007 Land Trust of the Year Award with NWLT Board members (from left) Bob Martini, Dan Wisniewski, Meta Reigel, Mitch Olson, Willa Schmidt and Jim Holperin.

Gathering Waters Conservancy's Annual Land Conservation Leadership awards recognize individuals and organizations whose achievements are making a notable impact on the future of Wisconsin's natural resources. "Everyone who plants a tree, volunteers at a nature preserve, or makes a donation is part of Wisconsin's conservation movement," said Strigel. "These awards are an opportunity to honor individuals whose exceptional work is supported and valued by many thousands of conservationists throughout the state."

The award also came with a giant-sized check for \$3,000 thanks to sponsorship funding support from Gathering Waters Conservancy, American Transmission Company, and the Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation. Our thanks to all for the award!



Willa Schmidt, Bryan Pierce, Mitch Olson and Jim Holperin admire the one-of-a-kind ceramic artwork created for the Gathering Waters Conservancy Land Trust of the Year Award.

Strigel said that Executive Director Bryan Pierce and the Northwoods Land Trust's dedicated board of directors offer a wealth of innovative tools and information to northern Wisconsin landowners who are equally dedicated to preserving the natural character of Wisconsin's northern lakes and forests. Their efforts have resulted in an incredible collection of more than 2,000 acres preserved by a grand total of 23 conservation easements, including over eight miles of lake and river shoreline.

"The Northwoods Land Trust is an outstanding small land trust using the full panoply of land conservation tools with great success," said Peter McKeever, attorney and NWLT member. "It is a model that inspires other land trusts to achieve excellence."

NWLT Gathering held in Madison

On November 6th, NWLT held an informal gathering at the Arbor House Environmental Inn in Madison. We shared a fun evening with hors d'oeuvres and beverages, and enjoyed meeting with Vilas County shoreland and woodland owners as well as NWLT members and supporters.

Special Thanks to our event sponsors: Becky Abel, Bill & Ann Bablitch, Denny Caneff, Tony Earl, Vicki Elkin, Charles Luthin, Peter McKeever, George Meyer, Tia Nelson, Michael & Molly Strigel, Jon Ela & Trish Stocking, Topf Wells and Gary Williams. Also coordinating and sponsoring the event were NWLT Board members Jim Holperin, Mitch Olson, Willa Schmidt and Dan Wisniewski. Thanks too to our hosts at the Arbor House - John & Cathy Imes.



John C. Bock Foundation Grant

The John C. Bock Foundation has again awarded a grant to the Northwoods Land Trust to protect outstanding conservation lands. With a \$16,000 grant, NWLT was able to complete several permanent land protection projects with a focus on northwoods rivers.

Grant funds were utilized to help cover the costs of completing two perpetual conservation easements on the upper Wisconsin River, a 16-acre project in Oneida County and a 37-acre project in Vilas County. These easements protect a total of over 2,200 feet of shoreline. A third conservation easement also protected 840 feet of frontage and a 31-acre parcel on the Deerskin River in Vilas County, a class I and II trout stream.

We greatly appreciate the John C. Bock Foundation's continuing support for our northwoods land and water protection projects!



This stretch of the upper Wisconsin River in Vilas County was protected with a perpetual conservation easement in 2007 by June Wedell, with funding assistance from the John C. Bock Foundation.



Arthur L. & Elaine V. Johnson Foundation

The Northwoods Land trust was the recipient of a recent \$5,000 grant award from the Arthur L. and Elaine V. Johnson Foundation.

According to Senior Trustee Sally H. Mode, the funds are to be used to "assist your organization in promoting the conservation of natural shorelands and woodlands for the benefit of present and future generations in Vilas, Oneida, Forest, Florence, Iron and Price counties in Northern Wisconsin."

NWLT intends to use this grant to continue our capacity-building efforts to ensure the sustainability of the organization - a vital need for the long-term stability of the land trust's conservation work. Two previous Foundation grants provided critical support for NWLT's technology and organization capacity-building efforts. Thank you!

Audubon Land Fund for Wisconsin

A fifth grant was awarded to the Northwoods Land Trust in 2007 from the Audubon Land Fund for Wisconsin through the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation. Funded through sales of their WeatherFriend Phenology Calendar, this endowment fund was established by the Northeast Wisconsin Audubon Society to help protect habitat for declining plant and animal species.

The ALFW grant covered the costs of having naturalist John Bates conduct an ecological assessment on a 133-acre woodland property in Oneida County. The assessment is part of the baseline documentation needed for a perpetual conservation easement still in progress. The woodland property includes some true, old-growth forest habitat with giant eastern hemlock, sugar maple, basswood, yellow birch and white pines. The property is also adjacent to Nicolet National Forest lands, so it has significant conservation values. Thanks again to ALFW!



NWLT Annual Report of Contributions Received in 2007

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

Conservation Land Donation

32 acres Holmboe Conifer Forest State Natural Area from The Nature Conservancy of Wisconsin

Conservation Easement Donors

18 acres Virginia & John Elsen (Virginia Culver Elsen Trust)
 8.73 acres Sybil & Howard Holtzer
 18.7 acres Thomas (Ellen) Katisch
 75.49 acres Albert & Kathryn Nagy (Family Trust)
 307 acres Roland & Ruth Rueckert
 23.9 acres William & Joy Vancos
 37.2 acres June (Al) Wedell
 595 acres Walter & Janet Wellenstein (Family Partnership)
 24.2 acres Harry & Candy Whidden

Foundation & Government Grants

\$42,118 DNR Lake Protection Grant Program
 \$10,000 DNR River Planning Grant Program
 \$16,000 John C. Bock Foundation
 \$5,000 Arthur L. & Elaine V. Johnson Foundation
 \$3,000 Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin (Dale Druckrey donor advised fund)
 \$435 Audubon Land Fund for Wisconsin

Contributions from Organizations

\$10,000 + Gathering Waters Conservancy
 \$1,000 + First National Bank of Eagle River
 The Nature Conservancy of Wisconsin
 \$100 + Student Nature Conservancy - Nicolet College
 Snipe Lake Association
 Eagle River Animal Hospital

Memberships, Memorial Gifts & Other Contributions

\$2,000 + Nancy & Mark Nebgen
 Dale Druckrey
 Jean B. & E.T. Juday Gift Fund
 Al & Kathy Nagy Family
 Luida Sanders
 Diana Anderson

\$1,000-\$1,999

Sarah Perry
 Tim & Kathleen Hagen
 Ed Drager
 Robert & Linda Felland
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 Michael & Peg Uihlein
 Bill & Joy Vancos

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 Willa Schmidt & Kim Genich
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 Jim & Kathy Holperin
 John & Jan Huppert
 Mitchell Olson
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 Tom & Terry Ellis
 Bev Engstrom
 Gregg Ewert
 Ms. Ione Garcia
 Donald & Karen Grade
 Bill & Joanie Green
 Ardyth L. Hall
 Leigh Hanson
 Clifford & Jeanne Haskins



A conservation easement protecting 24 acres of farmstead and forested shoreline along the Wisconsin River by the Hat Rapids dam in Oneida County was granted by Harry and Candy Whidden of Rhinelander.

\$100-\$249

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 John Neu
 William & Anita Nohava
 James & Judy Olson
 Dr. Ernest & Barbara Pellegrino
 Barbara Roeber & Larry Black

NWLT Annual Report of Contributions Received in 2007 - continued

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

Memberships, Memorial Gifts & Other Contributions - continued

\$50-\$99

Ruth Sanderson
Marion Schoofs
Peter R. & Olivia Schumann
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\$1-\$49

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Sally Latimer & Dan Kuzlik
Donald Berg
Constance Janikowski

We want to acknowledge your gift. If we have made an error, please let us know so we can correct it in future publications. Thank you for your outstanding support!

Memorial Gifts in 2007 were received from:

Sarah Perry - in memory of Freeman, Jessie and Freeman Perry Jr.
Marion Schoofs - in memory of Clarence Kurtz, Elmer Schwanke, Jack Claringbole and Mary Beth Ludwig.
Nicolas & Joan Schoofs - in memory of Jack Claringbole.
Mrs. Kenneth Check - in memory of Al Schoofs.
Willa Schmidt - in memory of Theodosia Kern.
Ruth Sproull & Dick Pantalone - in memory of Charlie Mosher.

These memorial gifts will live on through the lands we protect in the northwoods!



The NWLT Board of Directors celebrated the signing of a conservation easement for the Katsich property on December 14, 2007. Pictured from left are: Bryan Pierce, Pete Davison, Mary Schwaiger, Sue Coffinan, Willa Schmidt, Dan Wisniewski, Ellen Katsich, Tom Katsich, John Huppert, Meta Reigel, Jim Holperin and Ed Mouw.

Donor-Advised Fund grants awarded to NWLT

The Northwoods Land Trust has been the recipient of several contributions from donor-advised gift funds. Tax-deductible contributions from individuals or families establish the funds initially with a foundation, which manages the fund investments as an endowment. Interest accrued from the fund is distributed annually to charitable organizations which may be selected by the original donor.

Our most recent grant was received in honor of our friend, naturalist John Bates, from the Mark D. and Christine G. Troutd Donor Advised Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation. Thank you to Mark and Christine Troutd for recommending the grant to NWLT.

Similarly, we have received several grants from the Sarah E. Perry Charitable Fund of the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, an independent 501(c)(3) public charity, thanks to two-time conservation easement donor Sarah Perry.

The Northwoods Land Trust was also the recipient of a grant from the Jean B. and E.T. Juday Gift Fund. We greatly appreciate the support of Tug Juday and the Juday family fund Trustees.

We would also like to acknowledge the support of NWLT member and supporter Dale Druckery. Dale donated a parcel of land to the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin to be sold. The proceeds were shared with other conservation organizations including the Northwoods Land Trust. Thanks Dale for thinking of us with this gift! (See page 7 for another example of memorial fund assistance from the Natural Resources Foundation.)

All of these are great, creative ways to support the land trust's lasting conservation efforts. Our sincerest Thank You to all for your contributions!

Luida Sanders encourages Northwoods Memorial Fund giving

Luida Sanders, who established the Charles A. and Ida C. Sanders Northwoods Memorial Fund to help support the Northwoods Land Trust's conservation efforts, shared a great idea. In a postscript to the Christmas letter she sent to relatives and people who knew her mother and father, she also included the following:

"Perhaps it was the looming 90th birthday that started me thinking about the past last winter. Then I heard David Clutter from the Natural Resources Foundation speak at a League of Women Voters luncheon. I had what can only be described as an inspiration and talked to him after the program about the possibility of a memorial to my parents. I briefly told him about Dad's buying the resort at Lake Tomahawk, his stories of the area, hunting and fishing, as well as Mother as a teacher at Pound, Bear Skin Lake, etc. I had also owned a time share at Eagle River for some 20 years and loved the area.

It wasn't long after he called to say he had talked with Bryan Pierce, Executive Director of the Northwoods Land

Trust in Eagle River about establishing the Charles A. and Ida C. Sanders Northwoods Memorial Fund. I signed the papers on May 16, 2007 along with a check for \$2,000. The money is held by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Box 2317, Madison WI 53701-2317. When it reaches \$10,000, the Northwoods Land Trust will receive annual payments to support their work of preserving natural shorelands, woodlands, wetlands and other natural resources as public benefits for the present and future generations.

This is the first such memorial fund established and got quite a lot of publicity among environmental groups. It is hoped that other families who love the northwoods and/or were pioneers in Northern Wisconsin will establish similar funds or contribute to them."

Luida and other family members have since made additional contributions to move the Fund even closer to reaching the \$10,000 goal. Other contributions are certainly invited and welcome! For more information on contributing or establishing a similar fund, please contact Bryan Pierce at the NWLT office at (715) 479-2490 or David Clutter at the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin at (608) 264-8922.



NWLT's efforts to protect beautiful shorelines like Al and Kathy Nagy's conservation easement property on Marion Lake in Oneida County depend upon the generosity of our members and other supporters.

Additional Stock Donation Given in 2007

The Northwoods Land Trust was again the recipient of a significant gift of stocks from our donor who wishes to remain anonymous. The contribution was made to support our critical conservation work.

This gift of these highly-appreciated stocks has some important tax benefits from a capital gains perspective for the donor family. However, the real benefit is knowing that their donation will make a big difference in helping NWLT continue to protect our beautiful northwoods - a gift that truly lasts. We greatly appreciate their support!



JOIN THE NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST

HELP KEEP THE NORTHWOODS THE NORTHWOODS!

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.

Please make checks payable to:

Northwoods Land Trust, Inc.
PO Box 321
Eagle River, WI 54521-0321

- I am interested in the NWLT Council of Trustees.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone (w): _____

Telephone (h): _____

E mail Address: _____

Northwoods Land Trust joins efforts to save Interstate Falls

The Northwoods Land Trust has joined with local volunteers to begin fundraising to help preserve access to Interstate Falls, an eighteen-foot waterfall on the Montreal River. Often known as Peterson Falls or Montreal Falls, the waterfall is a scenic attraction at the edge of Ironwood, Michigan, and Hurley, Wisconsin.

Ian Shackelford, an NWLT volunteer and Ironwood resident, is organizing the effort to preserve public access to Interstate Falls. While known to some locals for years, Shackelford noted that widespread awareness of this waterfall only began in 2001 when the Hurley Area Chamber of Commerce published their first local waterfall guide. Interstate Falls is a beautiful local attraction, and the nearest waterfall to Ironwood and Hurley.

NWLT hopes to secure permanent public access along the existing 0.3-mile trail on the Wisconsin side of the Montreal River. The property containing the trail, and the Wisconsin side of Interstate Falls, was listed for sale in May 2007. The property is 38.7 acres and includes a half-mile of Montreal River waterfront.

The fundraising goal is to collect an estimated \$50,000 in pledges toward the costs of acquiring a conservation easement to protect public access to the waterfall and river. NWLT would only call-in pledges if the local group can find one or more conservation buyers for the property and

agree with them on a cost for acquiring the easement. People interested in learning more or making a pledge should contact Shackelford at 906-932-3779, visit www.interstatefalls.org or call NWLT at 715-479-2490.

To visit the waterfall, go west on US-2 a quarter-mile past US-51, turn right just before Stoffel's Country store, and drive another quarter-mile, following the signs to the waterfall. From the trailhead, a hiking trail follows the Montreal River through hardwood-hemlock forest for 0.3 mile to the top of the waterfall.



NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST

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

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in your annual and
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