

# Land-Water-Wildlife Matters



A Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust Publication  
Spring 2017



NORTHEAST WISCONSIN  
**LAND TRUST**  
*Preserving Our Natural Heritage*

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## Land Matters

is published by Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust, a non-profit, member supported, conservation organization dedicated to preserving lands that protect our waters, landscapes and natural habitats for this and future generations.

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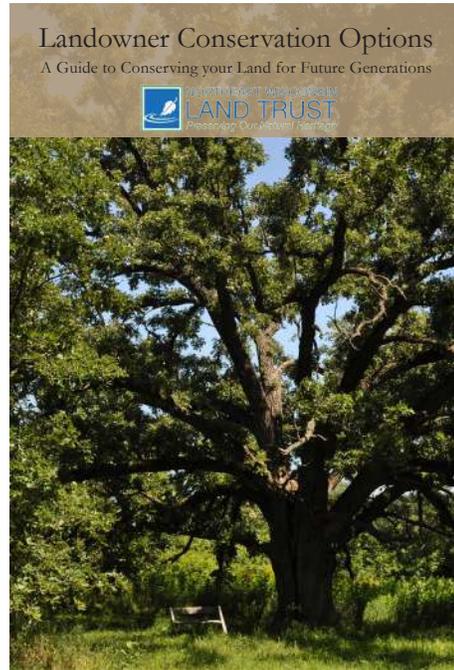
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Across the United States, people are increasingly conserving the private land they cherish so much. Landowners are now taking matters into their own hands and safeguarding the places they love.

*State, local, and national land trusts have worked with landowners to voluntarily conserve 56 million acres of land. This 56 million acres is an increase from 9 million in 2010 and comes out to 5,000 acres per day!*

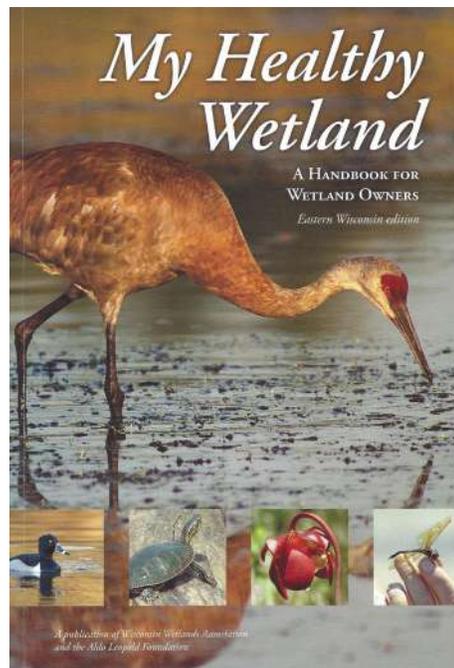
Are you a private landowner that is looking for some land conservation resources? Please check out some wonderful books we are offering:



### Landowner Conservation Options:

#### A Guide to Conserving your Land for Future Generations

Whether you want to make an impact that lasts beyond your lifetime, receive tax reductions, pass down a legacy to your children, provide places for outdoor recreation, or conserve valuable land that is home to wildlife, Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust can help you and your family decide on the best option for land conservation.



**Email or call us today to receive your own copy** of our Landowner Conservation Options Booklet. Discussing your options can truly make a difference – it is people like you who protect our essential natural areas, wildlife habitats, water quality, and farmlands.

### Wisconsin Wetland Handbook

Do you have a property with wetlands? Are you not sure? Or are you just curious about how to care for your land?

This is your last chance to get a free copy of a My Healthy Wetland Book! Email or call us to get one mailed to you today.

It is a great resource for learning what is unhealthy and healthy for wetlands, the benefits of wetlands and how they impact our ecosystem, communities, and economy, taking action for healthy wetlands, and controlling invasive species.



# Dismantling Development

## Dick and Sandy Conover - Chain O' Lakes Conservancy - Waupaca County - 83.6 acres

Dick and Sandy decided to put a conservation easement on their land in 2007. This year marks 10 years of conservation, however, the impact of their decision will last forever. Without their determination, it is certain that their natural spot would have been subjected to development.

Dick and Sandy reside on a private lake, adjacent to the Waupaca Chain-of-Lakes. They moved north after retiring and purchased their 'farm' in 1989.

A lifetime of conservation integrity prepared both Dick and Sandy for the process. When asked about conservation easements, Dick, who has a PhD in Natural Resources Policy says, "Well, that was one the many kinds of things I used to teach about."

Sandy, who has always been a farmer at heart, explains that when they purchased the property it had recently been split up into 5 acre tracts of land. Tracts that were plotted out for zoned agriculture and they were ready to be developed for the next owners.

*"It was a matter of protecting that area. Protecting the land and protecting a watershed" said Dick. "I don't want that to change. I want it to stay the way it is."*

People in the neighborhood were happy to see us protect the land. They wanted to see the same as us. We have a conservation minded community" Sandy said.

"You feel like you're somewhere else. You can't hear the cars" Sandy said. Then her and Dick go back and forth avidly talking about the wonderful features of the land:

The Frogs start croaking loudly in the beginning of summer,  
and ducks are noisy too,  
But if you're quiet and there long enough the birds will come out,  
and the deer are in there hiding, there's no hunting and they feel safe there.

Even after generations have passed, the land they watched over and planned for, will continue to thrive.

They choose preserving a place instead of money and it is people like them that we should celebrate. **Happy 10 years of conservation!**

Spring is here! This is what we are doing and this is what you can do this season!

Are you an educator? Plan a field trip this spring on one of our preserves! Teach your students the importance of natural places. Come walk the land, identify birds and plants and teach your students about the importance of pristine natural places or just come to relax! Contact us for more detail.

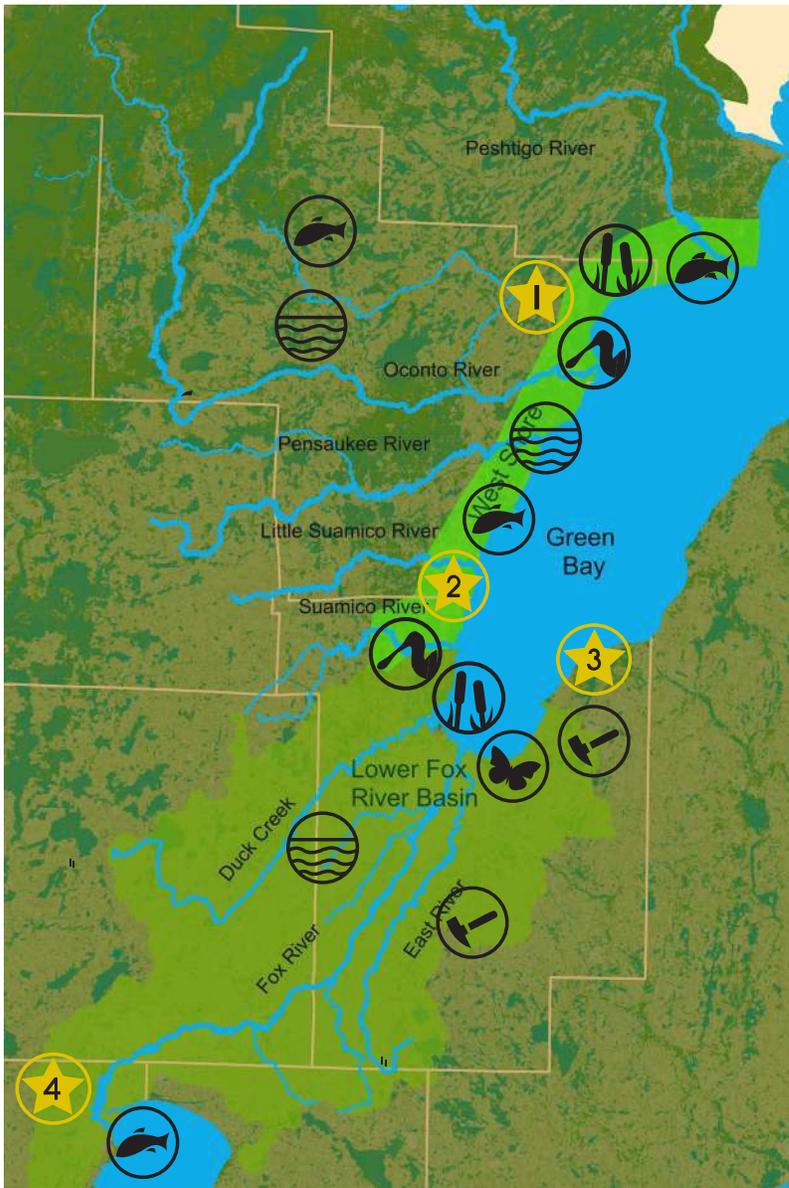
### Explore our Preserves:

 The Oconto Wetland Preserve: A lake, ponds, forests, prairie, high quality wetlands, and fields what doesn't the Oconto Wetland Preserve have? A fun fact about the preserve, according to the State of Wisconsin it is a registered burial site! Our primary goals for the preserve are to protect Green Bay West Shore wetlands, to promote local land conservation within city limits, and to provide opportunities for conservation education, while preserving the wildlife habitat.

 West Shore Preserve: Is 34 acres of forested wetland and seasonal creeks that provides spawning habitat for northern pike near green bay. Spring brings a huge number of flapping northern pike that are traveling upstream to find warm waters to hatch their eggs. This WET property is also a necessity for migratory birds. Spring is a great time to watch these birds as they make their trip back north after the cold winter.

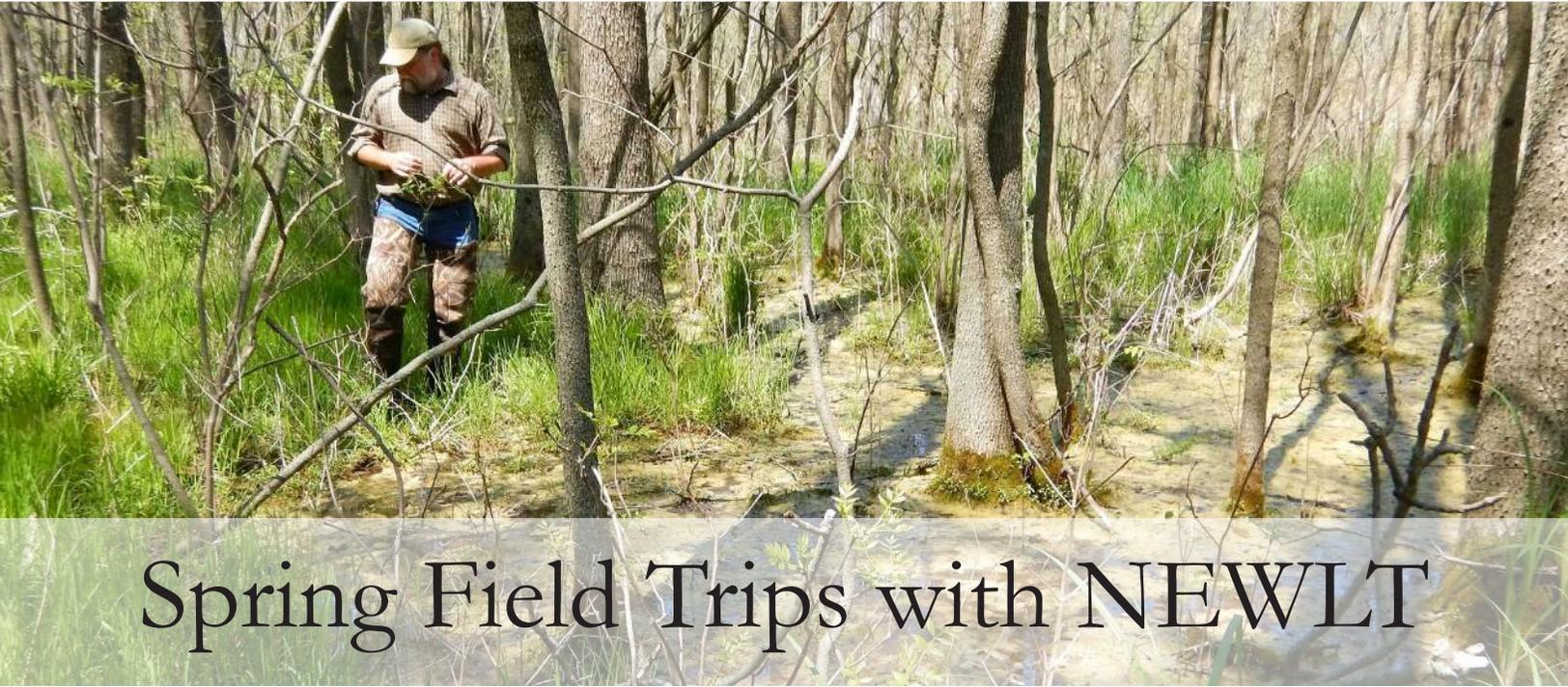
 Gilson Creek Preserve 1: Is part of red banks alvar state natural area and is perched on top of the Niagara Escarpment, its unique natural qualities provide a home for many rare and fragile species of plants, habitats, and wildlife. This property is a wonderful place for hiking, bird watching, and studying nature.

 Guckenberg-Sturm Preserve: Has a wildlife viewing platform that provides the opportunity to experience one of the last remaining pristine, open cattail marshes along the lower fox river drainage basin! The location of this preserve serves a huge importance for a huge community: to filter runoff water from the surrounding city. We are year round stewarding the land through pulling invasive, picking up garbage, and planting native plants. This preserve is the perfect place to take a lunch break and enjoy some quiet in the middle of Menasha.



*“Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance.”*

*-Theodore Roosevelt*



## Spring Field Trips with NEWLT

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Spring Floods Along the Fox: The Power of Plants for Clean Water

Where: Guckenberg-Sturm Preserve

When: April 18th

Time: 4-5:30 p.m.

What: This event, hosted by our very own board member Stephanie Vrabec, addresses the upcoming change in season. Join the land trust in learning about the importance of our hardworking wetlands. We will highlight incredible native plants that clean and filter the waters our communities depend on so much. How these plants help remove pollutants and control erosion and the necessity of these native plants, especially in spring time, when the heavy rains are upon us. Bring your waterproof boots and stay tuned for a change in date dependant on weather!

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Barkhausen Nature Walk

Where: Barkhausen Wildlife Preserve

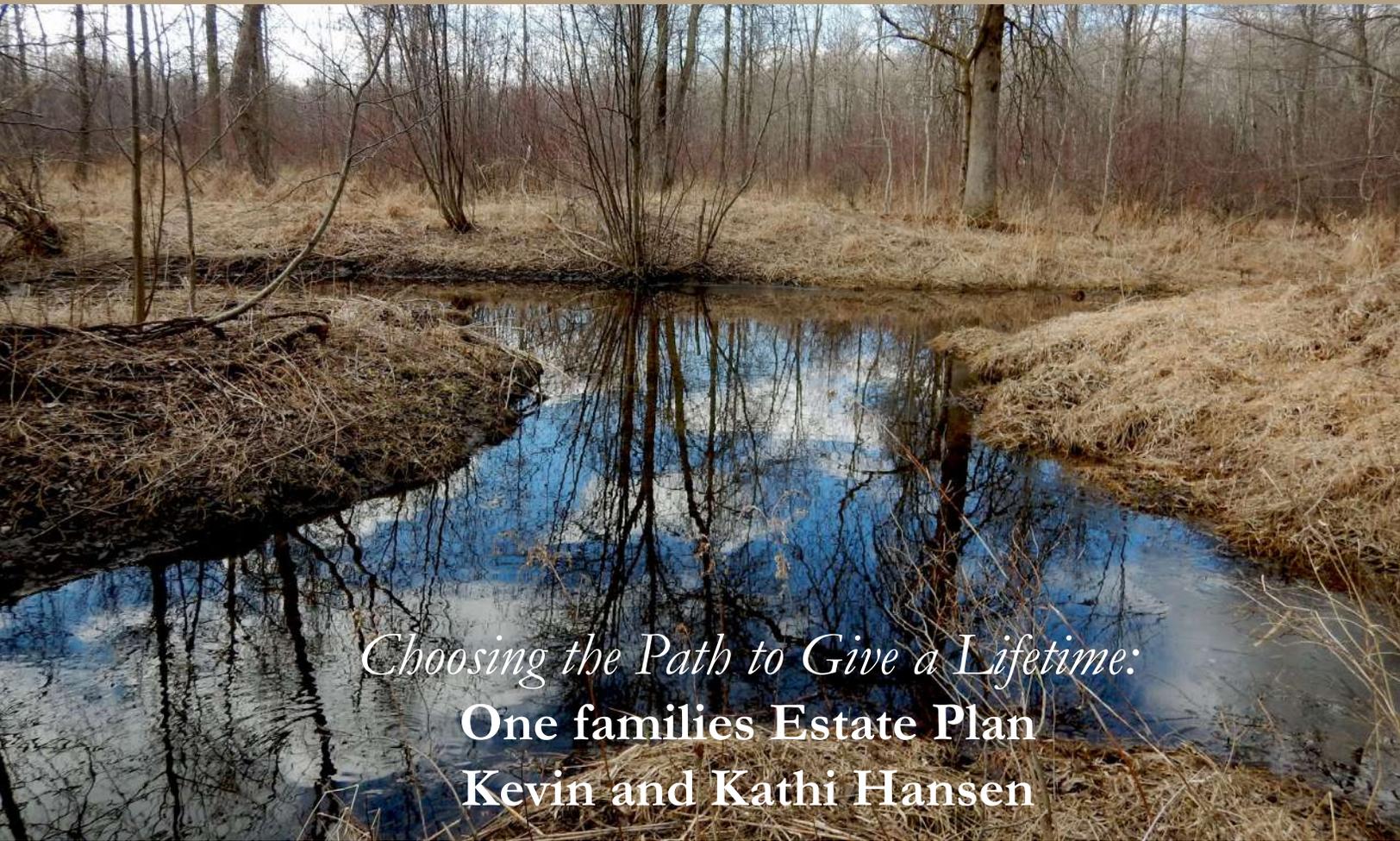
When: June 1st

Time: 3:30-7 p.m.

What: Join us at 3:30 in the Barkhausen lodge for a nature walk on the preserve hosted by Rob Zimmer. We will then meet inside for a casual program with beer, wine, and appetizers. Rsvp by May 21st as space is limited for this free event.

For more information or to RSVP to these events, email us at [newlt@newlt.org](mailto:newlt@newlt.org) or give us a call at (920) 738-7265.

*Did you know you could name Northeast*



*Choosing the Path to Give a Lifetime:*  
**One families Estate Plan**  
**Kevin and Kathi Hansen**

As Deb and I arrived at Kevin and Kathi's home, we were greeted by a huge gust of wind and a turkey that waddled past into a thicket of trees. The yard has a charming presence because of the mid-May weather and the scenery of hibernating trees and plants. The Hansen home overlooks a beautiful scene: The Fox River. Looking out we could see the windy day pushing the birch and maple trees gently in the wind and the waves crashing against each other fiercely.

The very first topic brought up was the huge group of turkeys that Kevin and Kathi were just watching and what we caught the tail end of. Kevin described the groupings of them and how this time of year they stick to their particular gender. Big groups of males and big groups of females separate. Then when spring creeps closer, the males start to try to impress the women, Deb joked asking if that's how guys my age act? Pretty close.

Half of the Hansen's home was filled with windows overlooking the woods and the river. It was a beautiful and peaceful sight that made Deb and I feel right at home. "Yes, we certainly enjoy it. Some people go up north every weekend to get away and spend time in the outdoors but we can just look out the window or walk out the door" Kathi said.

Kathi and Kevin are leaving their entire estate to Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust. "You are it. You are our will" said Kevin.

The first reason they made the decision was because they never had children. Kevin explained that when you think about your own children everything you do is investing in their future. "When you have kids, they are your reach into the future. That's your legacy. This is a way to have a physical presence in the future. Investing in the land trust goes beyond us and gives meaning to what we leave behind."

# *Wisconsin Land Trust in your estate plan?*



The second reason was because we wanted more public access for our community. We would love to be able to provide others with access to the things we have enjoyed for so long like walking outdoors, bird watching, skiing, and biking. Offering places like this not only allows for access but it is also protecting these access spots.

“We are not the typical outdoorsy people but we do love being there. We used to cross country ski, we spend time hiking and nature watching. But we aren’t the ones that are out in the wilderness identifying hundreds of bird species. Kevin and I just like being there and we want to know that the things we value are providing places for others to do the same” Kathi explained.

“Part of what the land trust does is real. The land is not going to disappear. It is a concrete way of caring and knowing there is a positive certainty in our future”. Kevin and Kathi spoke fondly to and of one another as they explained their thought processes over the years. It is inspiring to know that there are people like this out in the world and in our very own neighborhood. People who care so deeply for others and the environment.





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## *Frog Counting Team Needs Members*

The NEWLT Frog Counting Team is looking for a few more counters, and one of them can be you.

The Team is beginning its fifth season of counting, which occurs from early spring through early summer. Counting consists of visiting ten sites on a regular route in Waupaca County, usually near lakes and wetlands. Counters go out at night and pause at each site for a few minutes and listen. No, this isn't a visual count. Counting is done by identifying the frog or toad by the sound that is heard. The identified frogs and toad are then recorded on forms. This is repeated three times from May through July.

Interested individuals can either form their own teams or join a veteran team member. Contact Sara Chisholm at 920/221-9831 or Dave Muench at 920/422-1789. A training session will be held for new and existing frog and toad counters in late April or when new members come on-board.