

# Land-Water-Wildlife Matters

A Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust Publication

Fall 2015



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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Najah Alboushi  
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## Contributors

Editor – Kari Hopfensperger

Articles – Emily Hall, Kari Hopfensperger, Jim Klinkert and Roy Valitchka

Photographs – Julie Hawkins Tyriver, Kari Hopfensperger, Jim Klinkert, Roy Valitchka

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# Caring for the Land: Wetland Workshop

Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust understands that private landowners care about their land and want to do right by it. We want to help wetland landowners be the best land stewards they can be. That's why we're partnering with Wisconsin Wetlands Association and our other partners to host a workshop to help wetland landowners learn about and care for their wetlands.

The workshop will be held May 21 at Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve in Suamico. We anticipate that the free workshop will go from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and will include free lunch.

At the workshop, we'll explore resources that will help you learn about your wetlands, discuss why and how to set goals for your wetlands, and learn about how you can put your plan into action. You'll also visit a privately-owned wetland to take concepts into the real world, meet natural resource professionals who can help you with your wetland, and meet other landowners. Our goal is for you to get answers to your wetland questions and help with your concerns.

If you are interested in attending this workshop please let us know. You can also contact us to obtain a free copy of "My Healthy Wetland: A Handbook for Wetland Owners" or receive email news for wetland owners provided by Wisconsin Wetlands Association. Would you be interested in hosting the field trip on your wetland property? You'll get hours of free wetland consultation from knowledgeable professionals while sharing your land with other landowners.

To attend the workshop, receive wetland owner information or find out more about hosting the field trip, contact Kari at (920) 738-7265 or email [karih@newlt.org](mailto:karih@newlt.org).

For more information on caring for your wetland, check out <http://wisconsinwetlands.org/MyHealthyWetlands.htm> with lots of resources specifically for wetland landowners.



# Preserving a Conservation Ethic

By: Emily Hall



From 1999 to 2001, my five children and I put 287 beautiful acres into a conservation easement. The land borders a chain of lakes in Waupaca County, contains a half mile of trout stream and two small private lakes. We did this because a conservation ethic runs in our family. My grandfather helped promote Hartman Park and fishery and my mother, who acquired the land in the 1930's, loved the land was constantly improving it.

Now, with tremendous development pressure on all sides, our generation would hate to see this farm cut up and subdivided. A conservation easement was the answer. We can still use it but no dwellings can be built on it. Going through the process was not easy. The children and I had to agree on what to put in and what to leave out of the easement, but now that it is done we are all happy this family heritage will be protected in perpetuity. Our thanks for tremendous help in going through this process go to Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust, a group of volunteers who love the land as we do.



You can now make a donation or renew your membership  
online at [www.newlt.org](http://www.newlt.org)



# Protecting Red Banks

By: Jim Klinkert



The stand of boreal-like forests of eastern white cedar and balsam fir cast long shadows in the early evening as Della and I walked along Gilson Creek and reminisced about the first time we met at a neighbor's house where landowners were meeting to hear about the special Gilson Creek-Red Bank landscape. The landowners, including Della and her son, already knew their land was special to them, but most had little inkling how very special their land was.

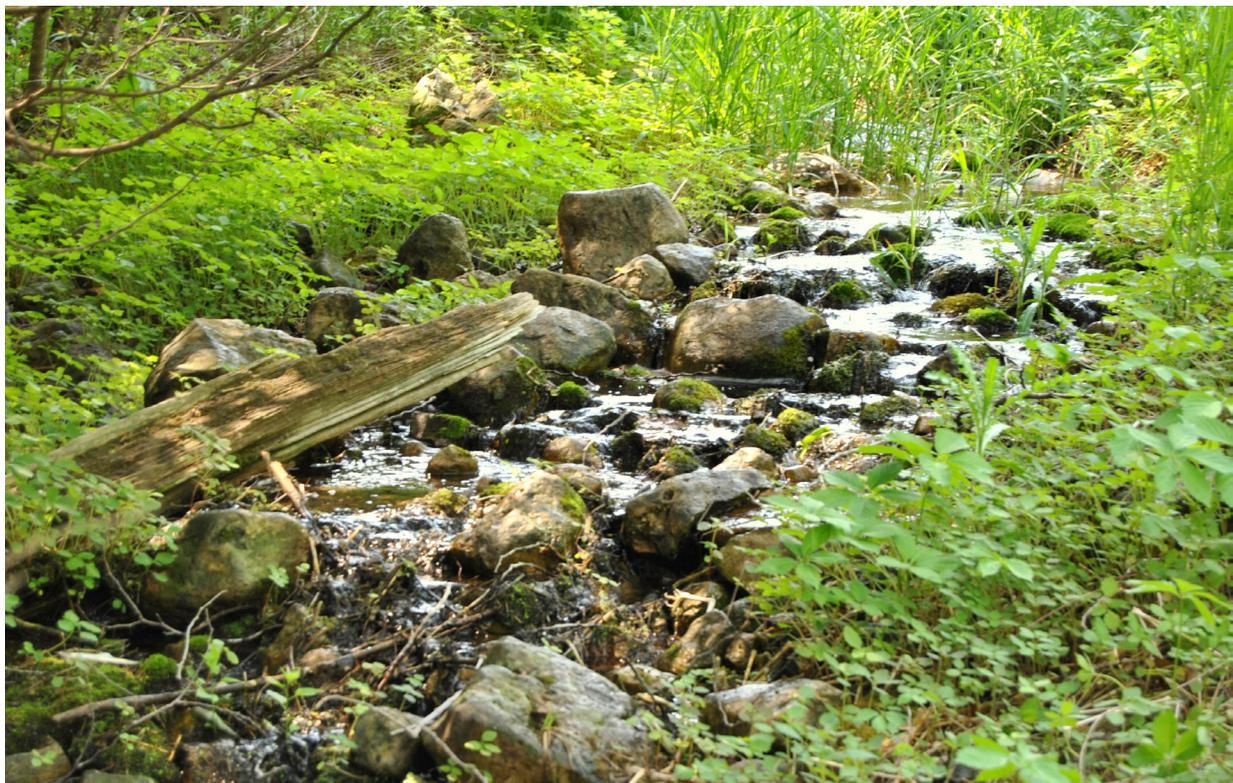
Della came up to me after the meeting saying they knew they wanted to protect their land, but were at a loss as how to go about it. This first meeting was the beginning of a 13 year journey during which Della's family and Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust came to know, trust, and respect each other and a long lasting friendship developed.

At one time we had a complete custom conservation easement written protecting 19 acres which the family and the Land Trust were in full agreement on. But, after numerous meetings with the family, it became clear that due to financial considerations the family was not in the position to preserve their land by putting a conservation easement on it or by selling it to the Land Trust. We put everything on hold.

After another 11 years of meetings with the family, touching base with each other by numerous phone calls and e-mails, and a grant writing partnership with the Land Trust and WDNR Bureau of Endangered Resources, the protection of their family land is complete. The property is now owned by Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust and has been dedicated a State Natural Area.

Approximately 780 feet of a small, meandering trout stream flows through the property and supports a local brook trout population. This is one of two remaining Class 1 trout streams in Brown County. The total contiguous protected shoreline along Gilson Creek is now 4,680 feet, including previously preserved lands by NEWLT and WDNR.

Eleven acres of some the rarest, most fragile and important habitat in Brown County and northeast Wisconsin is now protected forever. Thanks to a landowner's wish to preserve the beauty of this area.



# Land Stewards

By: Roy Valitchka

Waters of the Embarrass River are contained along one bank by prairie flowers which also host flocks of swallows and nectar seeking insects. A well placed Aldo Leopold bench sits atop a ledge overlooking the Shawano County stream and provides a contemplative resting place for landowners to enjoy both river and prairie.

Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Brown Eyed Susan and wild sunflower varieties bow before a dry wind this hot summer day casting a line of bronze as far as the eye can see at this central Wisconsin restored prairie. Leadplant boasts its resilience in dry glacial moraine soils above 154 acres of rolling Marquette County farmland. The iridescent purple spikes of flowers progress along the ridge with their deep taproots supporting silver gray foliage offering food for butterflies. In the drought dusty soil are old deer tracks, evidence of wild turkey dustings and below one tree the bones of a hapless rabbit that fell to a raptor.



One can hear the burble of Spikehorn Creek, a Class 1 trout stream, as it winds its way under a culvert bridge in a Marinette County property holding generations of memories for a family now far away from loved land. There is movement ahead of a trio of hikers approaching a wetland. A sow black bear makes tracks for high ground with a yearling cub not far behind. The cub lingers. Curious, it looks for the source of the scent not able to see what spooked its mother. A visceral grunt is heard and the cub scampers off.

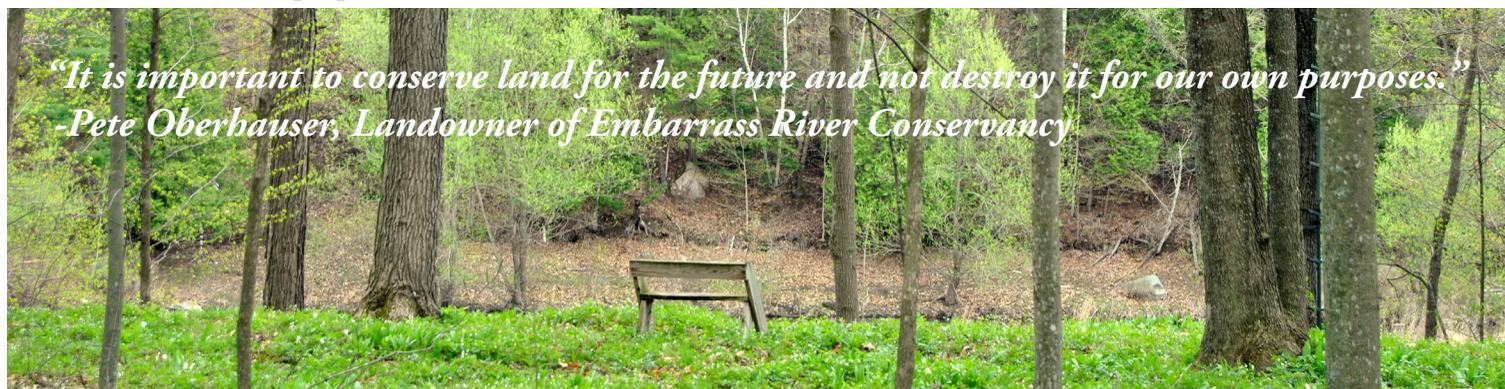
These are but experiences treasured by myself, Jim Klinkert, my wife, Lucy, and Land Trust board member Kelly Helein as we made trips to conservation easement properties for Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust this spring and midsummer from near Niagara and Cauldron Falls in Marinette County, to Shawano County and mid Wisconsin Marquette County.

Areas covered were from 154 acres in size to 12. Each of these places are lands valued by the families who own them. They are the result of years of husbandry by owners who have restored prairies, burned acreages to promote native species, encouraged forest plantings, farmed, and as children, roamed rolling hills and recalled favorite hunts. As one family said when asked why do a conservation easement, “the land told us to.”

I’ve had an opportunity to read the many pages in conservation easement documents and marvel at the willingness and desire of generous individuals to plan, sit with legal professionals and others to assure that their dreams are preserved long after they have passed and no longer can roam their fields, woods or wilderness acres.

Why do we, as land stewards, take days away to roam? We meet generous, kind men and women. We learn from each other and value their insights and are awed by their generosity. Our stewardship visits annually assure that donors’ wishes are being met and the land is as designated.

For me, it is a continuation of my deep personal relationship with the out of doors – even when in 97 degree heat I leave a document record book back on a rest stop atop pile of pallets a mile back on a dusty gravel path. I walked back. Perspired, scolded myself. And most importantly felt the warm wind, heard the swish of restored prairie before the wind, observed birds and thanked wonderful people for their vision.



# Welcome Najah

Najah Alboushi will officially join the Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust team as our Membership and Communications Coordinator in 2016. She was first found sitting at our front desk during the summer of 2014 as an intern. You probably noticed a big change in the appearance of our newsletter at that time, and Najah's creativity is to thank for that.

After spending the summer with us, Najah returned to UW Stevens Point to complete the final semester in obtaining her Bachelor's Degree in Communication and Art. Born in Windsor, Canada, Najah was raised in Green Bay. Unsure of what she wanted to do prior to her internship with NEWLT, she was sure after the summer of interning, she wanted to come back. The enjoyment she felt from spending time outdoors turned into a desire to learn more and help out in any way she could.



Najah is excited to be with us and thrilled to be able to use her communication skills for a good cause. You will have many opportunities to see her work as she creates newsletters and posts for our Facebook page and website. And, you won't be able to miss her smiling face when you enter the office and at events.



## What's Next...

Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust is dedicated to finding the best remaining natural places northeast Wisconsin has to offer. Over a year ago, we began a process called Strategic Conservation Planning to aid us in identifying, prioritizing, pursuing and protecting those specific tracts of land that will most effectively and efficiently achieve our mission.

Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust was founded in 1996 primarily to address water quality protection by preserving land in the Upper Green Bay and Fox-Wolf watersheds. Conservation, including land preservation, restoration and enhancement of the natural landscape, are some of the best ways to ensure protection of water quality and wildlife habitats.

The product of this process is a written plan with a 3-5 year outlook to help us protect the highest priority natural land in our territory and a new initiative that seeks to meet a broader need and protect land on a larger, watershed scale.

We look forward to sharing more information about the remarkable natural places in our communities and showing you our plans to preserve the best remaining natural lands in northeast Wisconsin.

## Accreditation!

Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust is pleased to announce that it is applying for national accreditation! If approved we would join over 300 accredited land trusts in the United States. More than just a "seal of approval", the land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever.

The Commission invites public input and accepts comments on pending applications. We welcome your comments. Comments must relate to how Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust complies with national quality standards which address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. Please visit our website to learn more about the accreditation program and how to submit a comment. We appreciate your support in this effort.

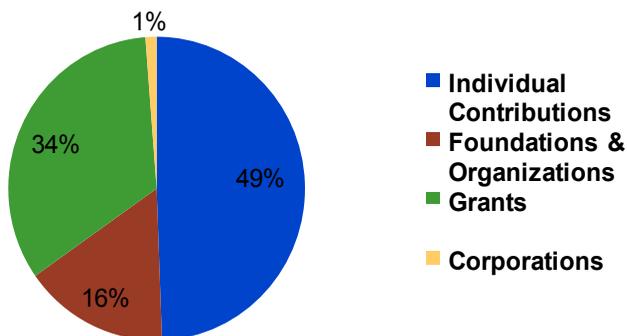


# Annual Report

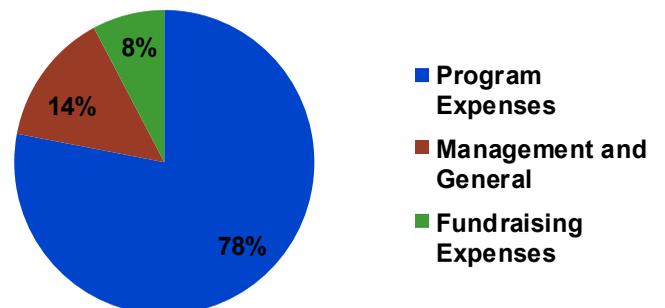
Balance Sheet		Revenues and Expenses	
Assets		Revenues	
Cash	\$107,114	Grants and donations (cash)	\$299,395
Other current assests	\$10,354	Other	\$125
Beneficial interest in assests held by Community Foundation	\$126,547	In kind	\$39,000
Conservation land, equipment and boardwalk	\$745,803	Investment income, net of \$1,187 expenses	\$1,497
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$989,818</b>	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$340,017</b>
Liabilities		Expenses	
Current liabilities	\$7,444	Program	\$146,849
Total liabilities	\$7,444	Administrative	\$44,585
Net assets	\$982,374	Fundraising	\$24,347
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$989,818</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$215,781</b>
Increase in reserves: includes land purchased			\$124,236



**2014 sources of funding**



**2014 use of funds**



Please visit our website to view a full annual report

*[www.newlt.org](http://www.newlt.org)*



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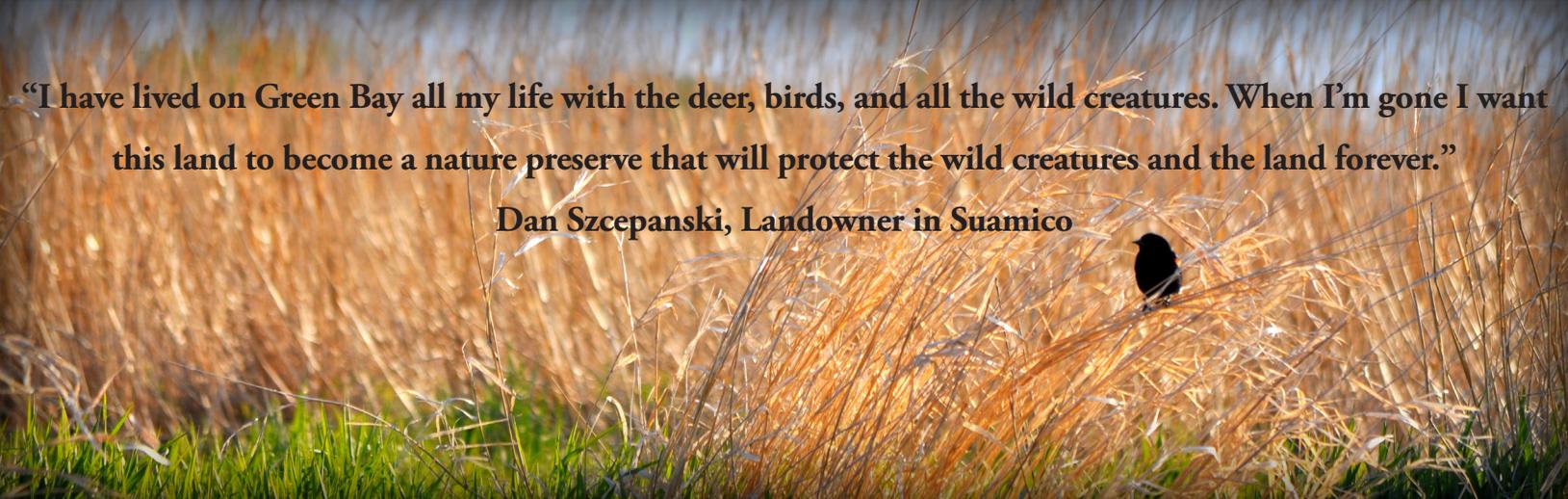
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## Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust Welcomes You!

Check our website for locations and directions to our public preserves.

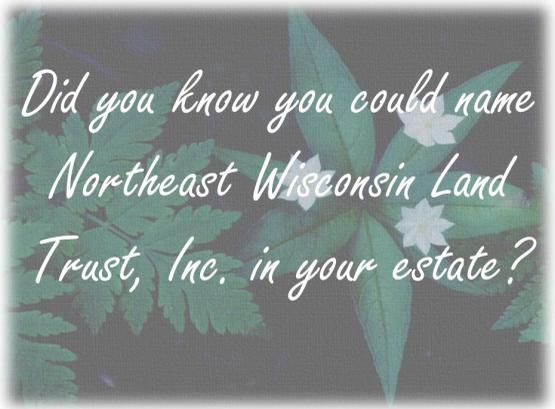


**“I have lived on Green Bay all my life with the deer, birds, and all the wild creatures. When I’m gone I want this land to become a nature preserve that will protect the wild creatures and the land forever.”**

**Dan Szcepanski, Landowner in Suamico**

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Thank you for your support!



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