



NORTHEAST WISCONSIN
LAND TRUST
Preserving Our Natural Heritage

LAND MATTERS

Spring 2014

Volume 17 — No. 1

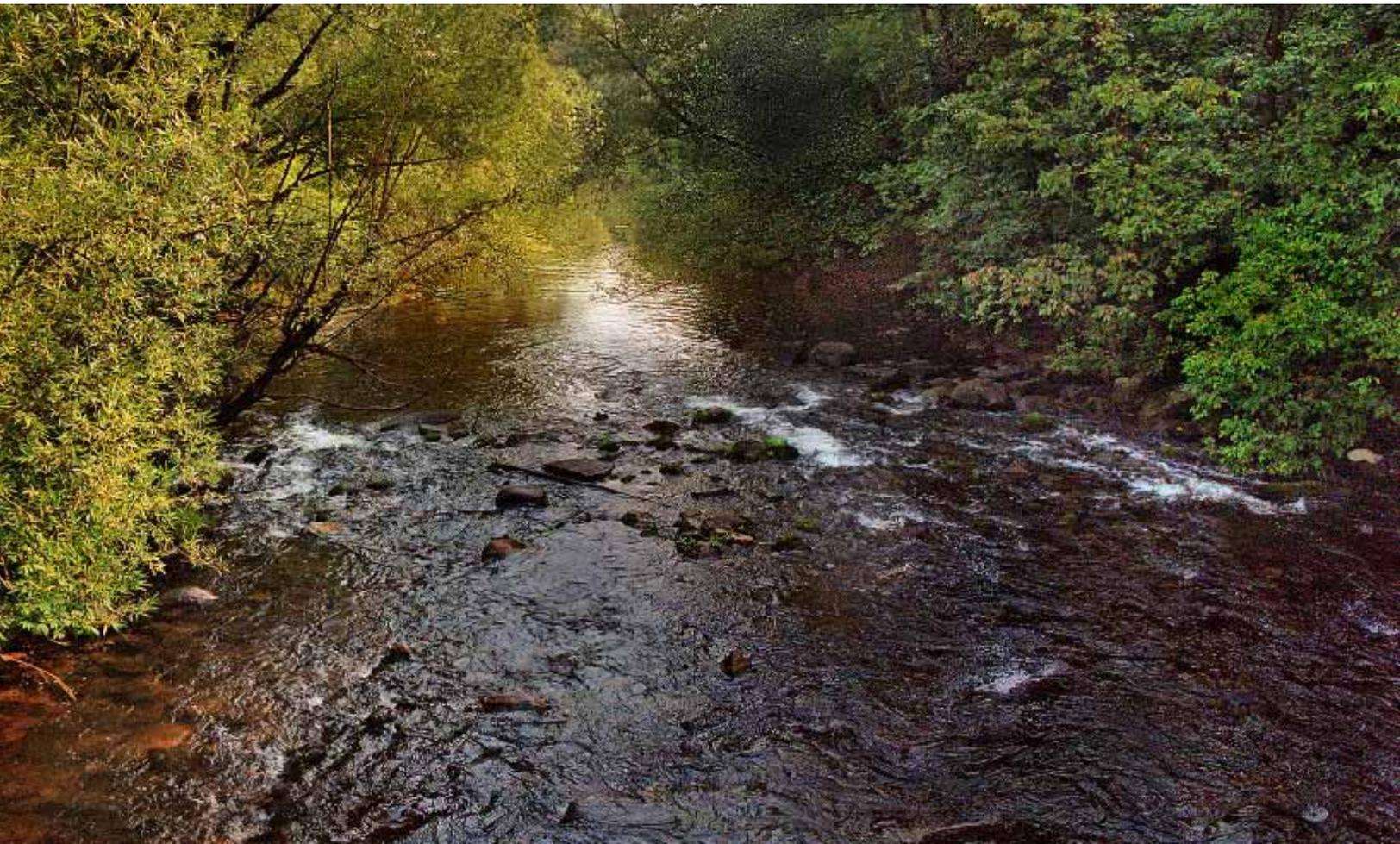
PROTECTED FOREVER — EMBARRASS RIVER II CONSERVANCY

On a very hot and sunny day in August my car winds around a little road just off of Highway 29 in Shawano County. We cross a little bridge over the Middle Branch of the Embarrass River and we arrive at our newest conservancy.

Mr. Adams, the owner of the property, recalls many great childhood memories here. He and his brother shared great Huck Finn like adventures building rafts and swimming in the river. In the spring, his father would help them count sometimes more than 100 trout at the mouth of the property's spring-fed creek where it flows into the Embarrass River. However, they were not allowed to fish during the spawn, but did catch many fish during other times of the year.

Mr. Adams says the 64-acre property has changed a lot since he was a child and his family lived off this land. Now, in the absence of cows grazing, the woods have grown so thick you can barely see the river from the top of the steep banks. That was his favorite spot to sit as a boy. We have to carefully make our way down the hill to enjoy the splendor of this peaceful place along the Embarrass River.

The sun shines through to the bottom of the river, where minnows dart around and the sound of water tumbling over the rocks is all that can be heard. The northwoods forest smell surrounds me as I breathe in the heavy air on this humid day. I stand on the bank of the river and think how thankful I am that we can preserve amazing places like this for the future. 



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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PRESERVING THE PAST; CARING FOR THE FUTURE



New 20 acre addition to Dohr Conservancy

There is a little place in northern Waushara County where time stands still. The now 60 acre conservancy consists of kettles, moraines and glacial ridges that are a prime example of the Wisconsin glacial ice age.

The farsighted landowners of this property recently added an additional 20 acres to the 40 acres they had previously preserved. They entered their first 20 acres into the Land Trust in 2006.

The Dohr's are committed to maintaining the property for the Karner Blue Butterfly. They have succeeded in restoring a native prairie with cold and warm weather grasses, prairie weeds and flowers, including a substantial amount of Lupine.

The fully intact vegetative cover contributes to the stabilization of the sandy soils and allows for a controlled recharge of the local aquifer. Preserving this land is a prime example of how local conservation efforts really do benefit future generations. 

Special Thanks

We are able to accomplish so much on our preserves because of the generosity of volunteers and other organizations. We are so thankful for the many ways you support Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust. To us, it's never just a small gift. Here are just a few organizations that we want to extend a special "thank you" for their help last year.

- Andy Leith - Legacy Land Restoration, LLC
- Brown County Conservation Alliance
- J.J. Keller
- Wild Ones
- Thank you to the Appleton Yacht Club for their help with our outreach efforts.

Thanks to all of our members, volunteers, and partners in helping us keep northeast Wisconsin a great place to live.



MEMORIAL GIFTS

Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust recognizes gifts made in memory of the following people:

James F. Kamba
Steven J. Kamba
Fred Kersten

Thank you to the families and friends who honored their loved ones with gifts to the Land Trust. The gift of preserving land is a gift that lasts forever.

FOND MEMORIES AT THE PAUER'S

By: Sue Kinde

Memories of picnics at the Pauer Environmental Education Center (PEEP) swept over me as I learned of LouAnn Pauer's recent death. Ken and LouAnn Pauer were a remarkable couple, preserving their special land on the North Branch of the Wolf River by protecting it with Waupaca County. They encouraged educational programs for young people, including building cabins for their use. The Pauers always said they were happy the Land Trust was created to help people preserve their land, as they had spent years looking for such help.

They hosted ten generous gatherings for Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust and Friends of the Little Wolf Headwaters with wonderful food, conversation and speakers. Their hospitality and warmth helped support our organizations from 1997 to 2006. After celebrating the land trust's Timm's Woods conservation easement or working on the Reeve Reserve, we were welcomed to PEEP for a delicious lunch of Ken's grilled chicken and LouAnn's baked beans and other specialties. We walked the property, accompanied by their large Newfoundland dogs, enjoying trails and cabins, woods and water, and bear claw marks on a large beech. We heard expert speakers talk about bird banding, riparian woodlands, forestry, control of purple loosestrife, water monitoring, fly fishing and more.

We are so grateful to LouAnn and Ken for all their kindness and support and we celebrate their vision in protecting their land for future generations of wildlife and people. 🐦



Ken and LuAnn Pauer in 2007

FROG COUNT

By: Dave Muench

Three times this past summer, four members of Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust traveled the back roads of northern Waupaca County, stopping at selected spots and listening.

Jennifer Jansen, Jim Hlaban, Dave Muench and leader, Sarah Lauer, ventured out after dark to listen to the sounds of croaks, tweets, grunts and peeps. Those are some of the sounds made by frogs and toads. But to a trained ear, they are sweet sounds indeed.

While frog counting may sound dubious, it is a valid scientific measure of environmental quality when done on a long-term basis. Sarah Lauer, Fox Valley Technical College student and Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust volunteer, undertook an effort to document amphibian populations as part of a long-standing DNR statewide effort. After tallying the results, the data will be combined with that collected by other groups this year and for years to come.

Conditions weren't the best early in the season, when normal frog activity begins. The first time out, the group found ice on some of the lakes and few frogs. But things soon got better. Wood frogs start croaking before the snow melts, followed by everyone's favorite, the spring peeper. Then more begin to appear: chorus frogs, leopard frogs, gray tree frogs and the all-too-familiar gunk, gunk, gunk of the green frog. There are other frogs making appearances later in summer, such as the bull frog and cricket frog, but frog counting usually is over by mid-July.

It was a good learning experience this first year and we look forward to next year! 🐦



ITS OUR WATER

Green Bay is developing a 'dead zone'.

Research is showing that the Bay is showing signs similar to sections of Lake Erie and the Gulf of Mexico. There so little oxygen is present that few fish, insects and worms can survive, according to scientists. They say a leading cause is the runoff of phosphorus and other nutrients, with nearly two-thirds of it coming from the Fox River.

Preserving natural land near Green Bay and along its tributaries can have a substantial impact on reducing the sediment entering our waterways. Maintaining existing wetlands and areas that buffer lakes and streams is very important in filtering the water that runs off from fields, streets and buildings.

Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust was founded in 1996 as a watershed-based organization and has stayed true to its roots. Eighty Seven percent of the lands we have preserved protect water, including miles of undeveloped shoreline. We have always recognized how important fresh water resources are to the residents of northeast Wisconsin.

If you are as concerned as we are about protecting our Great Lakes for future generations, let us know by supporting our efforts.

To learn more about what Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust is doing to continue its mission or to become more involved, email us at newlt@newlt.org or call us at (920) 738-7265. You can also find us on Facebook. 



Land Trust interns in Green Bay



You can now make

www.newlt.org



OUR TERRITORY CONSISTS OF MORE THAN HALF OF THE LAKE MICHIGAN DRAINAGE BASIN



MAKING AN IMPACT

Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust can preserve land in three ways: First, we work with families to preserve their land so that it will remain the same. Second, we can also accept donations of land. Third, we sometimes buy land when we feel preservation of that place is necessary. That's exactly what happened in 2012 when we purchased the West Shore Preserve in Suamico where Northern pike spawn each spring in the stream and ditches located on the property.

Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust has been working to raise money through grants and the generous support of our donors to purchase another important property in our west shore of Green Bay project area that will have far-reaching benefits.

There are many valuable wetlands that we would like to see preserved. Many of the properties we have looked at have undeveloped shorelines and provide habitat for birds and mammals. They are ecologically significant lands that provide free services to the community, such as flood mitigation and filtering runoff that eventually makes its way into Green Bay.

We know you realize how important these conservation efforts are to the local economy and residents of northeast Wisconsin and we thank you for your support. We excitedly await the opportunity to announce to you the opening of our next public nature preserve. Your conservation dollars continue to be hard at work making a difference now, and for the future. 



Muskrat house at potential new preserve

a donation online at
ewlt.org

DIRECTOR OF LAND ACQUISITION RETIRES

“There’s a long, long trail winding into the land of my dreams....” Jim Klinkert has been on his own winding trail for 56 years in tune with this romantic love song from the World War 1 era.

“I’m surprised I’m retired,” says the man who for 15 years has followed his passion and love of the earth with Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust. His winding trail will not end with an announced retirement. It will continue in another dimension.

A glimpse into the past will help understand Jim’s emotional attachment to the earth. He grew up in a two bedroom home with three siblings in Whitefish Bay just off the bluffs bordering Lake Michigan. As a child Jim often would walk the lake shore and observe the crumbling bluff from wave action and see the rubble those waves created. In hikes in the kettle moraine before it became a well-used state park he felt solitude and the earth beneath his feet.

The Klinkert family moved to Appleton where for many years Kitchen’s By Klinkert was a mainstay on Wisconsin Avenue. Jim worked with his father and attended Lawrence University and later was graduated from the University of Wisconsin Green Bay with a degree in urban analysis. While at Lawrence he met the woman who became his wife, Joanne. They have two daughters, Brenda and Drew, who embody exceptional musical talent.

Jim taught 4th and 5th grades for 12 years in the Appleton School District but continued to volunteer at Mosquito Hill Nature Center, the Fox Valley Audubon Society, Save the Boundary Waters Group of Minnesota, co-authored bicycling touring articles for The Post-Crescent, chaired the highway and bicycling committee for the Fox Cities and a Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce committee.

A post Sunday church service conversation with an acquaintance, Leslie Taylor, led Jim to the Land Trust and an assimilation that has fulfilled his sense of awe and oneness with the earth he cares to protect. Jim says many persons fail to ever find their passion. He has with the Land Trust.

Jim hears the stories of the families who have entrusted their lands to the organization and considers them “my landowners”. He knows what it is to work and has a special feeling for the persons he works with. He takes time to hear their stories with patience and develops a trusting relationship. Land Trust landowners give up a great deal, Jim says, in that now another entity will protect their treasure and embrace a new relationship or “trust the Trust.”

When on lands entering the Land Trust, Jim says he has a feeling of oneness with the earth and understands protected lands will be used, but wisely for generations. Each piece of land is unique and has special value. Consider, Jim says, beautiful acreage embracing three trout streams, a pristine lake or bogs and marshes preserving wildlife and old age forests standing tall to the sky.



Jim Klinkert on a Land Trust Conservancy

He is proud that today others come to Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust for advice and insights. The Land Trust, Jim says, is recognized as highly ethical and adheres to high standards.

Jim is stepping back for a time from being the public face of the Land Trust. “Others can do as I have done,” he says. He claims he will spend more time with yard work and family.

The trail Jim follows will not end. He certainly will continue to make excellent wildlife photos. This author who shares Jim’s love of the earth is honored to be asked to accompany Jim as he yet plods through another land inspection. Thanks, Jim, for we share that same long winding trail to the land of our dreams. By: Roy F. Valitchka 

THESE BEAUTIFUL PLACES AWAIT PRESERVATION!

A creek leading to 2,700 feet of undeveloped frontage with an eagle's nest perched in a tall white pine.



110 acres in Winnebago County connecting to a 440 acre wetland we purchased in 2008.

This 190 acres has 1,500 feet of frontage on a class 1 trout stream and is the center range for a local wolf pack.



This working wetland we hope to purchase is a great habitat for waterfowl and spawning fish near Green Bay.

Change Service Requested

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Spring wildflower field trip in Shawano County

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Thank you for your support!

