



WEST WISCONSIN
LAND TRUST

OPEN SPACES

SPRING 2006

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 1



Ted Griggs Preserves the Wonderful and the Wild

By Jane Anklam

Whether our northern lakes connection is through fishing or swimming off a sandy beach, cross-country skiing across the quiet lake basin under a full moon, or enjoying a pot of chili with friends and family at the lake cabin during hunting season, the water's influence will never be broken. However, the places themselves are increasingly at risk. Development on these fragile lakes has accelerated in southern Douglas County. Human influences have increased the rate at which nutrients and sediments are being deposited, dramatically impacting the quality of the lakes.

Ted Griggs owns a 37-acre parcel on the shores of Whitefish Lake near Wascott in Douglas County, and has been concerned about what lies ahead for the lake. An "exceptional water resource" (as identified by the Wisconsin DNR), Whitefish Lake is well known for its pristine natural features. This 832-acre lake reaches a depth of 125 feet, and its wetlands provide habitat for dozens of wildlife and plant species, including the graceful pink lady's-slipper.

"This property is one small piece of the wonderful, wild landscape of northern Wisconsin," asserts Griggs. "Everything that we love about this part of the world is here: marshland, woods, a beautiful lakeshore and a healthy mix of animals, insects and plants. I consider it my duty and privilege to protect as much of it as I can." Griggs has vacationed with his family on Whitefish Lake since 1955. His father purchased this property in 1962, eventually leaving it to his children.

Griggs became familiar with West Wisconsin Land Trust in 2003, when the Whitefish Lake Conservation Organization (WILCO) hosted an informational meeting for members. David and Lue

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WEST WISCONSIN LAND TRUST

OPEN SPACES

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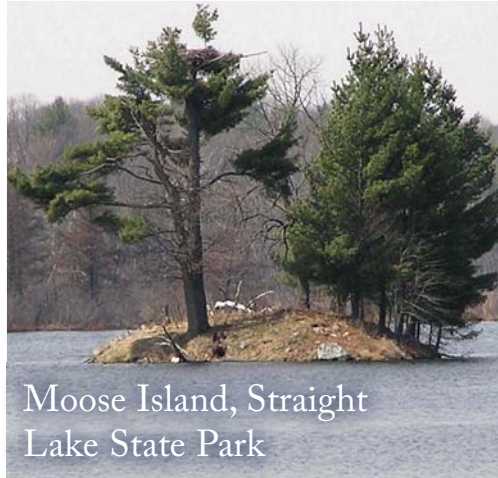
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Note Worthy

Straight Lake State Park

Straight Lake State Park has been open to the public for the last year. This summer, the multi-tiered master plan process



will be put into motion with a complete biological inventory of the 2,780-acre site.

Once the wildlife inventory is completed, the public will have several opportunities to provide input. Straight Lake Park Supervisor Jeffrey Krueger is planning to send out a letter and issue press releases and information regarding the status of the master plan and the public involvement process soon.

Until the master plan process is complete, the DNR will not be doing any development in the park, which includes trails, buildings and other permanent improvements. The present structures on the Straight Lake property will be removed this spring. The dam on Straight Lake and the three dams in the wildlife area will be upgraded over the summer, to comply with current regulations.

Many people skied and snowshoed on the property this past winter, and the beautiful property will remain open to the public this summer for walk-in use. For directions to Straight Lake State Park, please visit www.wwlt.org.

Heron Rookery

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Lake 26 Heron Rookery project featured in the last issue of *Open Spaces*! With your generous support, West Wisconsin Land Trust completed the

project in December of 2005. Together, we have helped ensure Great Blue Herons will continue to grace the shores of lakes in Burnett County.

Northern Office

West Wisconsin Land Trust opened its northern office in Trego in February 2004 to increase conservation in its northern counties (Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Sawyer and Washburn). In just two years, West Wisconsin Land Trust successfully conserved 7 properties totaling 440 acres in that region.

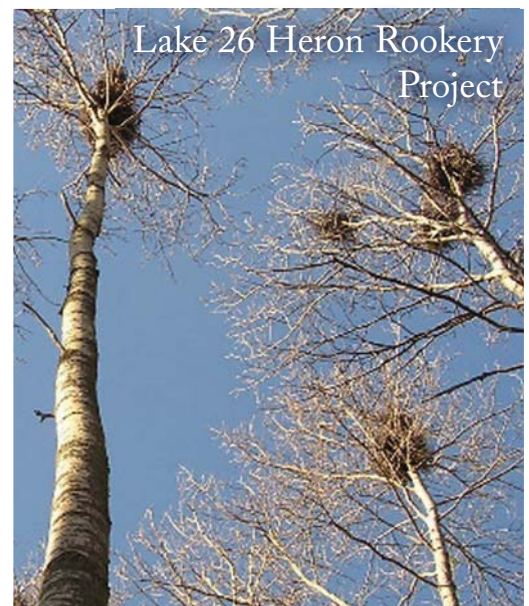
In response to a growing number of conservation projects in Douglas County, West Wisconsin Land Trust has relocated its northern office to Superior.

"Working out of Superior will allow me to efficiently address the needs of northwestern Wisconsin, whether by meeting individual landowners or working with partnerships affecting the region," explained Jane Anklaam, West Wisconsin Land Trust's land project specialist for the northern region.

Anklaam will continue to serve landowners in Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Sawyer and Washburn Counties from her Superior office.

Anyone interested in learning more may contact her at 952-270-3619, or call West Wisconsin Land Trust's main office at 715-235-8850.

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Leaving a Legacy to Create Another Legacy

I've been asked many times, "How can I support the West Wisconsin Land Trust if I don't own land?" My response is always the same. Our greatest, most consistent support comes from members and donors who faithfully give each year to the work of land preservation. Some own land and some don't, but without the yearly charitable gifts of our membership we would cease to be a viable organization.

David Paddock, Sr. didn't just talk the talk, he walked the walk when it came to conservation and the things he believed in. David was passionate about places that he knew were special. One-of-a-kind places like the foothills outside of Boulder, Colorado, and the wooded shoreline along Whitefish Lake near Gordon, Wisconsin.

Before his untimely passing in January 2004, David and his lovely wife, Lucretia, conserved many acres of land around their home in Boulder with a land preservation agreement.

One day, David called me up from his home in Boulder, and in his characteristic gravelly voice, wanted to know if the West Wisconsin Land Trust would assist him and the Whitefish Lake Conservation Organization (WILCO) with conservation of the shoreline around Whitefish Lake. Fortunately, I responded that we'd be glad to do this.

The Paddocks, along with Fred and Sandy Anderson, arranged for meetings and communication with Whitefish Lake residents about land trusts and shoreline protection.

In addition, David and Lucretia set up a charitable remainder unitrust (CRUT) for WWLT with the understanding that the funds generated from this planned gift would support permanent land conservation on the lake. They didn't want the expense of doing land protection to inhibit anyone on the lake from protecting their shoreline.

On May 2, 2006, three years after David's initial call to the WWLT office, the first large tract of shoreline was permanently conserved by Ted Griggs (see feature article). David and Lucretia's legacy encouraged and allowed a new legacy to be created by Griggs. One generous gift enabled another, and pristine shoreline was preserved.



By Richard E. Gauger

Executive Director

Invest in western Wisconsin's future by including West Wisconsin Land Trust in your estate plans.



NoteWorthy, continued from page 2

Volunteer Training

Another nine people joined the ranks of volunteer monitors in April. These volunteers will monitor protected properties in Barron, Chippewa, Eau Claire, Pierce and St. Croix Counties. A total of 15 properties are now being monitored by volunteers.

Volunteers are also helping WWLT with outreach activities, such as working a booth at local events, taking photos, or researching and writing articles. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please call 715-235-8850 or visit our website at www.wwlt.org for more information.

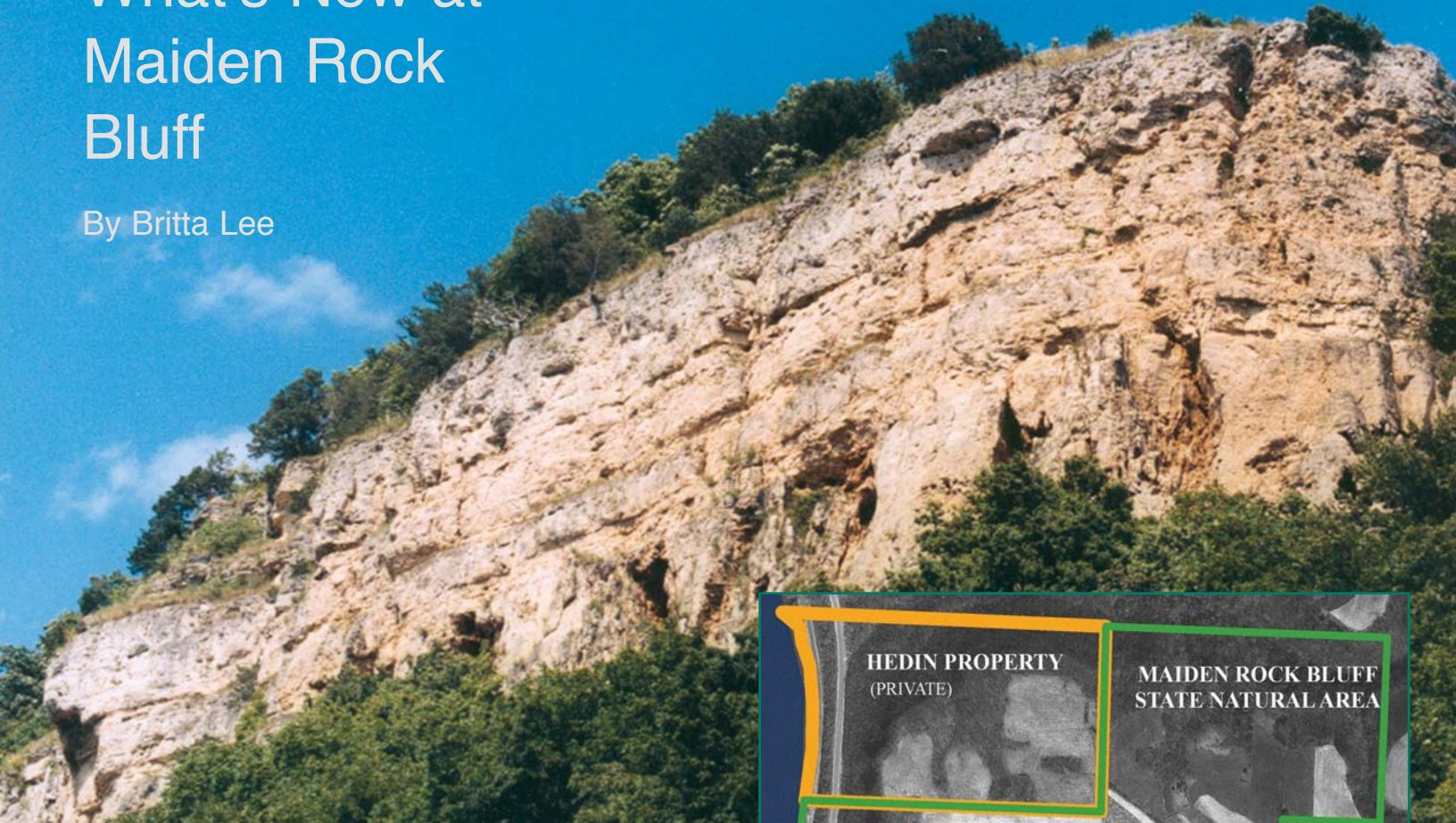


Volunteer Monitors at Work

Future Monitor Training: Thursday, August 3rd, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 12th, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

What's New at Maiden Rock Bluff

By Britta Lee



It's been nearly two years since the purchase and dedication of the 248-acre Maiden Rock Bluff State Natural Area site. With the ownership of a Wisconsin State Natural Area comes the responsibility of managing this unique property and its rare natural features.

Many activities have occurred at Maiden Rock Bluff since it was dedicated in 2004, bringing together many people who generously volunteered their time to improve the site, as well as visitors and educational groups.

On **Volunteer Clean-up Day**, 12 volunteers assisted WWLT staff in removing three *tons* of scrap metal, 50 tires, and 70 pesticide containers from the buildings on site. Later in the year, the abandoned buildings were removed.

Seventy-nine acres of agricultural fields were planted to Tallgrass Prairie in spring 2005, restoring the fields to pre-settlement conditions. **The Tallgrass Prairie Restoration** may

take three or more years to come in fully, though several wildflowers bloomed the first summer.

In addition, red cedars (an invasive species) are being removed from the bluffs to encourage the regeneration of the goat prairies that once graced the landscape of the region.

In order to make visiting easier, a **parking lot** has been added, complete with school bus turn-around. An **informational kiosk** was built with red cedar logs from the site, and provides visitors with maps, brochures and rules for visiting State Natural Area #410.



Brochures were published to inform visitors of the significant natural resources and recreational opportunities at our Pine Creek Preserve and Maiden Rock Bluff State Natural Area, located only two miles apart.

Work is ongoing to provide a mile

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Maiden Rock Bluff update

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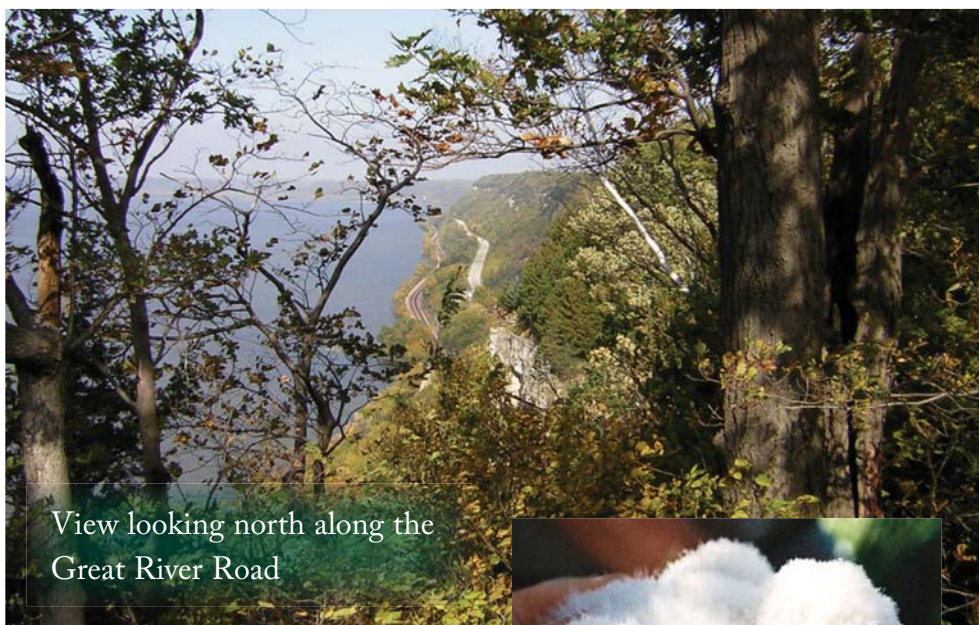
and a half of **hiking trails** that lead to scenic look-outs and wildlife viewing areas.

A limited number of **personally inscribed benches** for the site are now available for purchase, with proceeds directly supporting the continuing restoration work at Maiden Rock Bluff.

Four **education programs** have taken place at Maiden Rock Bluff, informing dozens of visitors of its unique natural features.

The **Raptor Resource Project** continues to band peregrine falcon chicks at Maiden Rock Bluff.

Land preservation continues on adjacent areas. The **Hedin family** signed a land preservation agreement with West Wisconsin Land Trust in 2005 on their property bordering the Maiden Rock Bluff State Natural Area. Protection of this 56-acre property creates over one mile of preserved bluff frontage on Lake Pepin, and



View looking north along the Great River Road

provides a **significant buffer** for Maiden Rock Bluff from the development up-river.

Thank you for supporting these restoration and conservation projects. We hope you enjoy your visits to Maiden Rock Bluff State Natural Area!



Banding a peregrine falcon

Members Celebrate Best Year Yet!

On March 23, West Wisconsin Land Trust celebrated the best year of land conservation in the organization's 17-year history. More than 70 members joined WWLT's board and staff to recognize the accomplishments of 2005. Dave Carlson, host of *Northland Adventures*, was the keynote speaker. He showed a video presentation of important conservation efforts, including Straight Lake State Park.

Numerous awards were presented at the Annual Meeting:

2005 Stewardship Circle Inductees: West Wisconsin Land Trust recognized the following members who have contributed \$1,000 or more to land conservation, or who have protected their personal properties:

- Dorothy Heller
- Pat Kelly
- Greg & Barbara Miller
- Don & Arlys Olson, and Paul & Gail Olson
- Dora & Barbara Rohl
- Curt & LaMae Rohland

2005 Legacy Awards: West Wisconsin Land Trust acknowledged three projects that were the most substantial contributions to land conservation in 2005. They were:

- Jack and Colleen Holmbeck for their donation of a 39-acre Bass Lake property, formerly owned by Ralph Waldo Emerson.
- Love Lake Association for their donation of a 69-acre property on Love Lake.
- The Brunkow Family, for their commitment to West Wisconsin Land Trust and creating Straight Lake State Park and Wildlife Area.

2005 Volunteer of the Year: David Foster received this honor for his commitment to monitoring conserved properties in 2005.

West Wisconsin Land Trust gratefully recognizes all members who helped make 2005 our most successful year to date. Your contributions helped protect nearly 5,000 acres! They say records are made to be broken. What will 2006 bring?

Diversity of an Education Program

By Bill Dingwall

Since its start in June of last year, WWLT's Education Program has served over 800 participants. That number is quite a feat considering that the first programs didn't launch until late August. What's more intriguing is the wide range of subjects, participants, and organizations that have been part of the program.

In a broad sense, the subjects are similar in that they are all related to nature. However, they are as unrelated to each other as the night sky is to a dragonfly. Topics have ranged from forest ecology to insect adaptations to pollution. A church youth group and pastor explored the beauty of nature and related it to the Apostle's Creed.

Within this range of subjects, the teaching techniques are just as varied. Participants have built fires without matches, explored the mucky bottoms of ponds, and even played games of tag. The key is to keep things interesting—even entertaining—while learning about nature.

Diversity comes not only from the subjects, but from the participants as well. Within one group, ages ranged from five to 63, which brings in great differences of prior experience and attention span. How to teach fire-building to a 58-year age spread? Easy, use a method that isn't familiar to any of them, such as a flint and steel sparking set.

At other times, physical ability can become an issue. It might seem challenging just to do a program for 53 students and their parents—then add one participant in a wheelchair. I selected methods that allowed all individuals to participate, while removing the spotlight from the person in the wheelchair. A game of tag allowed several students to participate by helping with set-up instead of running. Afterwards, we did a pond study by placing tubs of pond water and critters on tables. This eliminated the need to get people to the pond, reduced impact on the pond itself, and brought the critters to a level where everyone could see them. Creativity is key to involving people of all ages and abilities.

In other instances, motivation is the issue. It was cold, dark and windy; a perfect night for sitting on a couch in front of a warm fire. How do you keep a group of adults and kids warm, interested, and learning while freezing at Maiden Rock Bluff? Candy! Actually, we used chocolate in an activity that used scent as a way of communicating in the dark. Of course there was also hiking, hiding in the wind-protected ravines, playing "Marco Polo" to learn about echolocation, and looking at the full moon rising over the prairie.

When leaving, a father rolled down his window and related that his son, who hadn't wanted to come, just said that

this was the most fun he'd had in a long time. At another program at Hoffman Hills State Recreation Area, a high school girl obviously didn't want to be there. When asked, she said that her parents made her come and that bugs were gross. After a couple of hours, she had dirt on her hands, prairie seeds stuck to her clothes, and thought that insects were actually "cool". In these two cases, not only was poor motivation overcome, but a positive lasting impression made. Mission accomplished.

These aspects of diversity are bound to grow as the Education Program expands its work with other organizations. Programs have been developed for family groups, Cub Scouts, 4-H, homeschoolers, public schools, and a church youth group. The Education Program will be working with St. Croix County, the DNR, and the city of Amery to provide activities for future events as well as looking to provide programming for corporate and civic group picnics.

Through creative activities and programs, WWLT's Education Program has taught hundreds of children and adults about nature in Wisconsin. By providing these positive outdoor experiences, the Education Program will help to preserve western Wisconsin's natural character.



Volunteers Help Restore the Devil's Punchbowl

By Kathy Stahl, Volunteer



Just outside of Menomonie, adjacent to the Red Cedar River, is nestled a very special place that has been there forever—or at least what would seem like forever to most of us. The Devil's Punchbowl, a three-acre site owned by West Wisconsin Land Trust, is a haven for geologists, botanists, bird watchers, or anyone who enjoys a quiet place with a variety of ecosystems from prairie to riparian and stream communities.

Geologically, the part of the site bearing the title of Devil's Punchbowl is a water-carved canyon that exposes the Eau Claire Sandstone Formation that was created as sea deposits some 500 million years ago. Through the years, this site has gone from sea deposit to sandstone rock, to glacial outwash, to a site most likely frequented by Native Americans, to ownership by a Civil War captain (Samuel Black), to modern day owners who eventually transferred ownership to WWLT for preservation.

With generous support of the Friends of the Devil's Punchbowl, WWLT has begun to restore a small section of the land to its original state of native prairie. To help with that effort, WWLT Education Director Bill Dingwall organized a work group in honor of Earth Day to clear some of the trees from the prairie area and to erect a barrier to keep

cars off the restored prairie. Invasive species will be removed this summer, and the area will be planted to prairie in the fall. The Earth Day project ultimately became a partnership of private, governmental, corporate and school participation. About 20 Menomonie Middle School students, five volunteers from 3M, two employees from the Town of Menomonie, as well as WWLT staff joined together to erect a post fence and to clear the pine trees to make the next steps of prairie restoration possible.

For the middle school students, the project was part of their service learning experience, and an opportunity for conservation education. The project was part of 3M's commitment to the community, by providing financial and personnel support to the Menomonie School District Earth Day program, and providing team-building opportunities for their employees.

Collectively, the project represents what a school system, corporate group, governmental staff and nonprofit organization can do together to preserve ecologically special sites for generations to come, as well as for us today. Visitors of all ages are welcome to listen to the water dripping from the cavern walls and view the lush ferns and mosses of this natural treasure.

R E S T O R A T I O N

Chippewa River Partnership Receives Second Million Dollar Grant

By Michelle Dingwall

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently renewed its support of land conservation projects in the Lower Chippewa River basin, with a second two-year grant totaling \$1,000,000. The grant is part of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), which was established in 1995 to restore wetlands and bird habitat throughout the United States.

The lower 48 states have lost over 50 percent of their wetlands in the last two hundred years. Wisconsin has lost approximately 48 percent of its wetlands. These swamps, bogs and marshes have traditionally been viewed as wastelands, and have been drained, filled or otherwise manipulated for agricultural or other human use.

Only recently have wetlands been valued as critical parts of our landscapes, responsible for flood control, maintaining water quality, reducing sedimentation, and providing invaluable habitat for hundreds of species of fish and birds.

The first NAWCA grant (received in 2004), helped conserve and restore over 2,600 acres in the Lower Chippewa Valley. The second grant will allow conservation partners to protect nearly 3,000 acres of threatened land in Pierce, Pepin, Dunn, Chippewa, Eau Claire, Buffalo, and Trempealeau Counties. Partners include West Wisconsin Land Trust, Pheasants Forever and Trout Unlimited, as well as Chippewa County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The NAWCA grant matches funds secured by each of the partners, including the work of the Blufflands Alliance.

Combined conservation efforts are valued at over \$4,000,000.

Grant funds will be used to preserve and restore wetland habitat throughout the Lower Chippewa River basin. The resources of the region are considered very important, due to their proximity to the Mississippi River, perhaps the most important flyway for migratory birds in the United States.

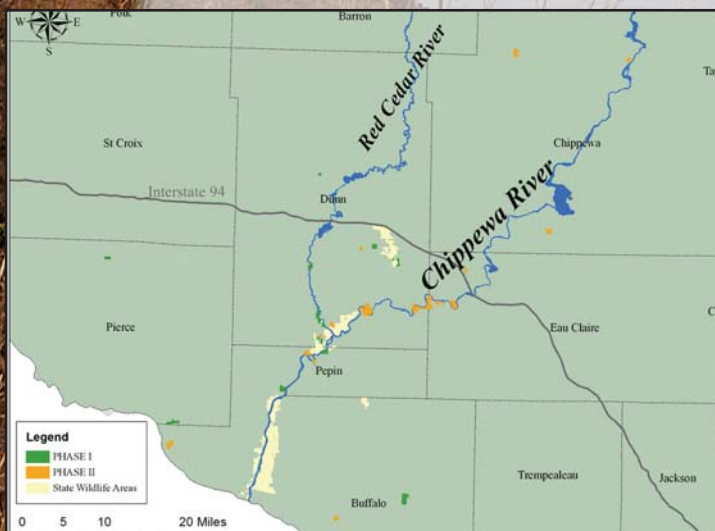
The Lower Chippewa River basin also boasts the largest contiguous floodplain forest in the Midwest, and the largest concentration of prairies and savannas in Wisconsin. Protection of additional lands in the region will create larger contiguous habitat for thousands of birds.

Over the next two years, the Lower Chippewa River Protection Partnership will work with approximately twenty landowners, whose properties could be permanently protected. Conservation of these parcels will add considerable acreage and shoreline to the preserved natural areas of the Lower Chippewa River.

“West Wisconsin Land Trust is grateful to be a part of the Lower Chippewa River Protection Partnership, and to receive a second vote of confidence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This work is critical to preserving habitat for the variety of wildlife that defines western Wisconsin, and continuing the work of the Blufflands Alliance,” says Rick Gauger, executive director of West Wisconsin Land Trust.

“By working together on projects like the Lower Chippewa River Protection Partnership, each partner makes their limited funds stretch further,” comments Mike Dahlby, Chippewa County private lands specialist. “Perhaps equally important, we confirm, up-front, that each partner’s individual projects are consistent with the collective goal.”

The Lower Chippewa River Protection Partnership illustrates the significant achievements of a successful collaboration. West Wisconsin Land Trust looks forward to protecting another 3,000 acres of this nationally-recognized resource.



Ted Griggs Preserves the Wonderful and the Wild

continued from the cover



Ted Griggs on protected Whitefish Lake shore property

Lue Paddock, also landowners on Whitefish Lake, had vacationed there for decades from their homes in Boulder, Colorado and Rockford, Illinois. They had worked with a land trust to protect property in Colorado, and thought Whitefish Lake residents should consider the same. David invited West Wisconsin Land Trust Executive Director Rick Gauger to present the concept of land preservation agreements to Whitefish Lake landowners. Approximately 40 landowners attended, learning everything from what a land trust is to how a land protection agreement affects their estate.

“WILCO was actively looking into water quality and shore land protection for their lake. They have become regional lake preservation leaders, working to proactively safeguard the resource. They serve as a model for what lake associations can accomplish,” explains Gauger.

The Whitefish Lake Conservation Organization took on a multi-agency, three-year planning process when recent studies indicated this pristine lake was experiencing increased algae blooms. The United States Geological Survey, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and the lake management staff of the Wisconsin DNR are working to identify the threats to Whitefish Lake and establishing its current status.

“The Whitefish Lake Conservation Organization is forever indebted to Ted Griggs for his lake stewardship ethic. The completion of this project means Whitefish Lake will always have a large area of wildlife habitat and a major spring protected to supply pure water to the lake,” maintains Sandy Anderson, president of Whitefish Lake Conservation Organization and WWLT board member.

“Anyone who has been to Whitefish knows what a special place it is,” adds Anderson. “Everyone needs to come together to ensure it stays that way.”

After exploring many conservation opportunities, Griggs signed a land preservation agreement with West Wisconsin Land Trust this spring, to permanently protect the nearly half-mile of shoreline property for the benefit of future generations. “Working with West Wisconsin Land Trust has been very easy for me,” notes Griggs. “They provided a framework for what I wanted to do.”



Whitefish Lake

West Wisconsin Land Trust is proud to have partnered with Griggs and other Whitefish Lake landowners to protect this special place. With permanent land protection as an option, perhaps more of our pristine lakes will continue to stand up to their deep, clear, blue reputation for years to come.



Little Words Mean a Lot

By Michelle Dingwall

A landowner we'll call "Mr. Smith" owned a small bluff property along the Mississippi River. A modest and quietly passionate man, Mr. Smith dedicated his life to studying and appreciating the natural beauty of Wisconsin. So it was no surprise when he chose to conserve his family's property through West Wisconsin Land Trust (then Wisconsin Farmland Conservancy) in 2001.

Over the years, Mr. Smith continued to support West Wisconsin Land Trust's work and frequently engaged staff in discussions about local conservation issues. Indeed, West Wisconsin Land Trust staff were truly saddened when Mr. Smith passed away. We knew we had lost one of the best allies of western Wisconsin's natural world.

A few weeks after Mr. Smith passed away, West Wisconsin Land Trust learned he had bequeathed his entire property to "the conservancy". He was unmarried and had no heirs, so he had chosen to benefit an organization that was near and dear to his heart. Unfortunately, the language of the bequest was incorrect, and the property was given to The Nature Conservancy (an organization with which Mr. Smith had little contact). After some negotiations, West Wisconsin Land Trust received about two percent of the proceeds of the property's sale, to support its Stewardship Endowment Fund. The remaining 98 percent benefited The Nature Conservancy.

Bequests are the easiest way to leave a legacy with West Wisconsin Land Trust and continue your support of preserving western Wisconsin's natural character. People may choose to bequest a specific dollar amount, a percentage of their total assets, or a specific asset, such as property, to a non-profit organization. But, as illustrated in the example above, one must use the correct language to ensure your intentions are fulfilled.

If you have included West Wisconsin Land Trust in your estate plans, or are considering doing so, please be sure to use the following as guidelines.

Specific amount:

"I give to West Wisconsin Land Trust, Inc., located in Menomonie, Wisconsin, the sum of \$_____, to be used by West Wisconsin Land Trust wherever the need is greatest."

Portion of estate:

"I give to West Wisconsin Land Trust, Inc., located in Menomonie, Wisconsin, ____% of my estate, to be used by West Wisconsin Land Trust wherever the need is greatest."

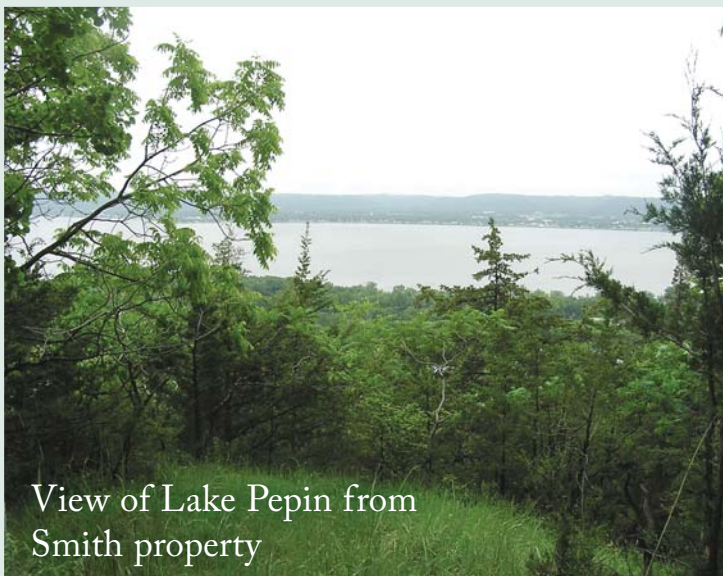
Specific property:

"I give to West Wisconsin Land Trust, Inc., located in Menomonie, Wisconsin, all of my right, title and interest in the following described real estate [insert legal description of land], to be used by West Wisconsin Land Trust wherever the need is greatest."

If your original bequest was written to benefit Wisconsin Farmland Conservancy, please update it with the appropriate language above. Also, be sure to notify West Wisconsin Land Trust of your bequest, so we may acknowledge your thoughtful gift, and induct you into the Heritage Society.

If you have any questions, please contact Rick Gauger at 715-235-8850.

WWLT acknowledges the important work of The Nature Conservancy and means no disrespect in its presentation of this story.



View of Lake Pepin from
Smith property



Land Conservation: Supply and Demand

"Land—they aren't making any more of it," quipped Will Rogers. Two hundred years ago, the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory (800,000 square miles) for \$15 Million. Today, that would buy you five or six family farms in St. Croix County or about a mile of shoreline on one northern lake.

One thing I picked up from Economics 101 is the law of supply and demand. As any resource dwindles, the pressure on it becomes greater, and the price increases. I suspect the future will put an even greater demand on our natural resources, whether they are agricultural or timber resources, or the last vestiges of natural habitat for plants, animals and solitude.

To meet this challenge, West Wisconsin Land Trust utilizes nearly every available tool in conserving our corner of the state. Protecting land from development via private conservation agreement is a great option. We can accomplish on-the-ground conservation while keeping land in private ownership. The majority of these agreements are charitable donations by the good graces of committed landowners, which can hold significant income tax incentives.

In cases where the landowner cannot donate their development rights, we try to use public and private grant funds. Although limited, these funds are available on a competitive basis and are often suited for exceptional properties meeting the grantors' strict criteria.

Wisconsin is extremely fortunate to have the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund, a pool of bonded state money earmarked for land conservation.

The fund is administered by the Department of Natural Resources, and a specific portion is available to non-profits and municipalities for eligible projects. Within the Department, the money is broken down into separate program areas such as streambank protection, acquisition, and development of local parks.

A major issue with these grants is that public state funds usually require public

access to the property (not required with other properties protected by WWLT).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers a grant program called the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). Like the stewardship fund, NAWCA money is available competitively, and as the name implies, specifically focuses on the protection and enhancement of wetlands.

West Wisconsin Land Trust recently received a second NAWCA grant to preserve wetlands along the Lower Chippewa River (see page eight for details).

The United States Department of Agriculture administers the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP). Unlike the above programs, FRPP seeks to set aside those areas of each respective state that are most suitable for long-term agriculture. Projects are ranked based on quality of the agricultural soils, price per acre, viability of agriculture in the future, and ability of the organization and landowner to cost-share on the purchase of development rights.

Some municipalities in our region have also implemented programs of their own. Chippewa County has a small program to protect both natural and agricultural lands. Pierce County has implemented a tax on subdivisions, with the revenue used to develop parkland and recreational resources.

As the population of western Wisconsin continues to grow, the pressure on our resources will increase as well. West Wisconsin Land Trust will continue to work with dedicated and passionate landowners who are willing to dictate the future uses of their land with private conservation agreements. Every successful project, whether donated, purchased or negotiated, brings us one step closer to the vision we have for the future of western Wisconsin.



By Rick
Remington

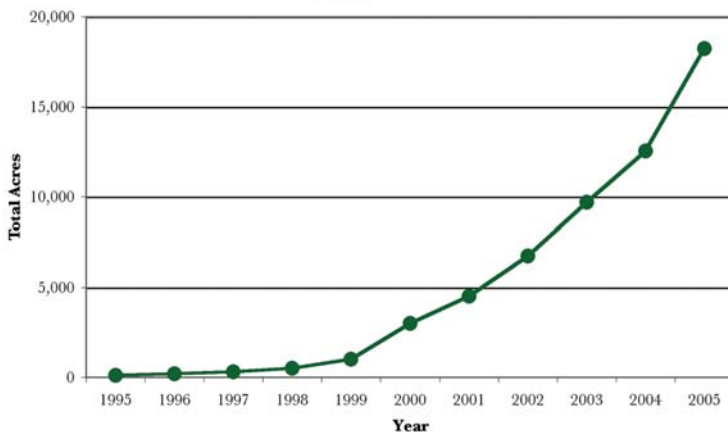
Land Program
Director

Members Make a Difference

Thanks to generous members like you, West Wisconsin Land Trust has helped protect almost 20,000 acres! These picturesque forests, bluffs, prairies, farms and shoreline properties are now guaranteed to remain beautiful for thousands of people—today and tomorrow.

Do you know someone who might also be interested in conserving the farms and natural areas of western Wisconsin? Gift memberships are available by returning the enclosed envelope, calling us at 715-235-8850, or visiting our website at www.wwlt.org.

Making a gift in honor or memory of a friend or loved one is a thoughtful way to acknowledge his/her love of western Wisconsin. To make a gift in honor or memory of someone, simply return the enclosed envelope, call us at 715-235-8850, or visit our website at www.wwlt.org. Be sure to include a name and address of someone we may notify of your thoughtful gift.



Not a member of West Wisconsin Land Trust?

Join today and help preserve farms and natural areas for generations to come!

- \$35 Cultivating Member
- \$50 Harvesting Member
- \$100 Sustaining Member

Students and seniors take \$10 off any category!

INFORM • FACILITATE • PARTNER • PROTECT



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