

Crosscurrents

A NEWSLETTER TO SERVE THE LAND TRUST COMMUNITY OF WISCONSIN

SPRING 2000

Profiles in Land Conservation

With this issue of CrossCurrents, Gathering Waters introduces a new feature—Profiles in Conservation—to recognize the individuals who have generously protected their land for the benefit of future generations. This is the first in a series.

Margaret Lalor's 150-acre farm has been in her family since 1847. It is rich land covered by fields, woods, wetlands and a Native American mound. The farm is in the Town of Dunn, just south of Madison, one of the fastest growing areas in the country. Dunn residents recognized Madison's outward sprawl early and took action, forming a land use planning commission in 1977.

Margaret has been on the planning commission since its inception. Last year she was one of the first participants in the town's unique program to buy conservation easements on area properties. The easement prevents development but allows her to live on the land and lease it for farming. The town and the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation jointly hold the easement.

Margaret decided to protect her land because she "could see development coming and didn't want the farm to be subdivided". She reports that she has been very happy with the result of the easement. Her advice for others considering protecting land is: "Look and see what the future holds, if it doesn't look good to you and you want to protect your land—do it now before it's too late."

Land trusts throughout the state are also working with willing landowners to place conservation easements on some of Wisconsin's most important landscapes. Other conservation tools utilized by landowners include the outright sale, donation or bequest of land to land trusts. If you are interested in protecting your property, call Gathering Waters to be put in touch with a land trust in your area. ■

—Bonnie Cosgrove

Bonnie is a senior at the UW-Madison majoring in Zoology and Economics. She has been volunteering with Gathering Waters for the past six months.

Margaret Lalor and her dog Buffy walking along the drive to her family farmhouse in the Town of Dunn, WI.



Gathering Waters mission is to help communities, land trusts and private landowners protect the places that make Wisconsin special. Gathering Waters helps individuals, communities, and non-profit conservation organizations to preserve, protect, maintain, and enhance the beauty and ecological integrity of the lands and waters in the state of Wisconsin.

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Gathering Waters' News

Upcoming Events

Regional Workshops on Membership Development Scheduled for July

Gathering Waters is pleased to announce an exciting training opportunity for Wisconsin's land trusts. Thanks to a grant from the Land Trust Alliance, Gathering Waters will bring Ellis Robinson, a nationally known membership development expert, to Wisconsin for a series of regional, hands-on workshops. Ellis has tremendous experience, which includes building the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's membership from 400 to 60,000 in just three years! Her dynamic presentation skills have been praised from coast to coast. Ellis has worked with land trusts of all sizes and has a knack for passing on useful tips on how to grow a successful membership program.

The Membership Training Workshops will be held in three locations throughout the state. The workshops in Wausau (July 20-21) and Milwaukee (July 24-25) will include a full day on the Essentials of Membership Development with a second day of hands-on tips and invaluable feedback on your membership program. The workshop in River Falls (July 17) will be one day of intensive learning and feedback. Land trusts that would like to meet one-on-one with Ellis should contact Gathering Waters. Look for more details and a registration form in the mail this spring.

Appraising Conservation Easements, a Gathering Waters' Course

Gathering Waters, together with Sauk County and the Department of Natural Resources, is offering a day-long course for appraisers on April 13th in the Wisconsin Dells. The course will focus on appraising conservation easements and preparing appraisals for lands acquired with state Stewardship funds. Attendees will be placed on a Gathering Waters' list of Recommended Appraisers. For more information call Gathering Waters.

Other News

Changes to Gathering Waters' Membership Program

Thank you to all of our members who have renewed their membership over the past year. In order to increase efficiency, we have made some minor revisions to our membership program. Beginning this year, we will mail renewals twice each year, in March and October. If your membership expires between February and July, you will receive a renewal notice in March. If your membership expires between August and January, look for a renewal notice in October.

Currents

Currents is Gathering Waters' bi-monthly bulletin for land trust staff. This publication offers technical advice, news and information pertinent to those active with land trusts or land conservation activities. Please call Gathering Waters if you would like to be included on the mailing list for the *Currents* newsletter.

Database Consultant Available to Land Trusts

Roger Reynolds is a computer consultant specializing in databases such as Microsoft Access. Roger has volunteered with Gathering Waters for the



past several years building and customizing our membership and technical assistance database. Roger is available for consultation throughout the state

at a special low rate for members of Gathering Waters' land trust coalition. For more information, contact Roger at 608-271-4012 or via email at rreynold@execpc.com. ■

Land Trust Staff Gathers at Green Lake

Wisconsin land trust staffers convened on the shores of beautiful Green Lake for a two-day retreat in February organized by Gathering Waters. The event, at the Green Lake Conference Center, featured Tom Bailey, Executive Director of the Little Traverse Conservancy. His sixteen years with Little Traverse enabled him to share valuable recommendations about such topics as time management, board-staff relations, and staff and volunteer management with warmth, humor and understanding. Tom's comfortable manner encouraged attendees to discuss organizational issues openly during his day-long session.

Says Ruth Oppedahl, Executive Director of the Madeleine Island Wilderness Preserve and the Bayfield Regional Land Trust, "The time we spent talking about common issues was one of the best things about the session. People who work for land trusts rarely have time to come together and problem solve collectively. The retreat allowed us to benefit from our mutual experience."

Day two of the retreat gave attendees an opportunity to let Gathering Waters know how it can best serve Wisconsin's land trusts. Top staff-identified priorities include:

- continuing to host annual retreats or conferences for land trust staff,
- forming an advisory council composed of land trust representatives who will provide regular input to Gathering Waters, and
- offering training on land trust issues for attorneys, accountants, realtors and other related professionals.

The day also featured presentations on the state's new Stewardship 2000 program by Janet Beach Hanson of the Department of Natural Resources and ecoregional planning by Karen Bassler and Doug Thompson of The Nature Conservancy.

The retreat concluded with an informal peer-to-peer learning session on conservation easements and membership facilitated by Dan Burke and Terrie Cooper of the Door County Land Trust and Ruth Oppedahl. ■

—Sarah Van Tiem

Sarah is the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation's Outreach Specialist.

Three of GW's volunteers, Bonnie Cosgrove, Kelly Andersen, and Stacey Barenthin, enjoy a day on State Street in Madison.

Future Land Trust Staff?

Gathering Waters' office in Madison is bursting at the seams! We are pleased to report that in addition to our regular volunteers, Bonnie Cosgrove, Roger Reynolds, and Harriet Riley, we have recently added three new recruits to our efforts.

Kelly Andersen is an intern through the UW-Madison's Institute for Environmental Studies Senior Capstone Class. Participants in this class spend the semester volunteering with an environmental organization in the Madison area. Kelly is a senior majoring in Biological Aspects of Conservation.

Stacey Barenthin is working as Office Manager for Gathering Waters through the UW-Madison's Work Study Program. Stacey will be putting in about 10 hours each week to keep Vicki and Cristina organized. She is also a senior majoring in Biological Aspects of Conservation.

Wade Thompson has volunteered with Gathering Waters since January. He has graciously pitched in to do everything from organizing our Conservation Easement Monitoring program to moving furniture. Wade is a senior majoring in International Relations and Geography.



Wisconsin Land Trust Staff presented an award to Janet Beach Hanson of the DNR for her invaluable assistance to conservation organizations. The framed photograph is by Bill Pielsticker.



Gathering Waters' Strategic Goals

- Ensure geographic coverage of land trusts in critical parts of the state.
- Increase the quality, professionalism and effectiveness of Wisconsin's land trusts.
- Promote public understanding and public policies that support private land conservation efforts.
- Protect key properties in parts of the state where no land trusts currently exist (to encourage the formation or expansion of local or regional trusts).
- Strengthen our organizational capacity to achieve our mission.

Gathering Waters Plans for the Future

Gathering Waters is proud to share its recently adopted strategic plan with our friends and supporters. The plan, which will guide our activities over the next three years, builds on Gathering Waters' strengths and will help us better meet the challenges and opportunities facing Wisconsin's growing land trust community.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our strategic planning process! We received over 75 responses to a questionnaire we circulated last fall and had several of our partners participate in a day-long strategic planning session facilitated by Marc Smiley. Your thoughts, suggestions and feedback were invaluable in developing the plan.

Under the plan, Gathering Waters will offer a range of new programs and services to build the capacity of the state's land trusts. For example, we will explore the possibility of offering retirement and health benefits to staff of Wisconsin's trusts, provide low-cost legal assistance to members of our service center, and organize training programs for attorneys, estate planners, appraisers and other professionals who provide services to landowners.

In addition, Gathering Waters will devote resources to building land trust capacity in areas of the state that are currently underserved by trusts. To do this, we will focus much of our training, education and outreach efforts on the northern part of the state. We will also do a limited amount of land protection in critical areas to encourage the formation and expansion of local or regional trusts.

Finally, Gathering Waters will continue to promote state policies and programs that encourage private land conservation and support the work of land trusts. We will also devote more resources to raising public awareness about the importance of conservation and the critical role private land trusts play in preserving Wisconsin's natural heritage.

To achieve these goals, Gathering Waters will hire additional staff over the next several months. Feel free to contact our office if you are interested in receiving copies of job announcements. We would also be happy to share complete copies of the strategic plan and the accompanying work plans for the next three years. ■

—Vicki Elkin

Vicki is the Executive Director of Gathering Waters.

Gathering Waters' Mission

To help communities, land trusts and private landowners protect the places that make Wisconsin special.

Building a Better Board—Getting A Return on Your Investment

This is the second in a series from organizational development consultant, Marc Smiley.

Every one loves a great investment tip. For the land trust community, the single best investment is clear: invest in building a better board. In the last issue of *CrossCurrents*, I discussed the first step in investing in your board—creating a board development committee to recruit, orient, train, evaluate and recognize board members.

The second investment is in an annual board retreat—a gathering of the board (and possibly staff) for a full day outside of the regular board business meeting schedule. The retreat is a tremendously useful tool for both planning and ongoing board development.

For planning, the retreat is critical. Land trusts that lack any comprehensive strategic plan must get together at least annually to define where they want to go and how they plan to get there. It puts everyone on the same page and gives everyone a common sense of what they can expect to accomplish in the next year.

For larger land trusts, the retreat complements the strategic plan by keeping it vital. Effective plans are dynamic; they respond to the changing environment in which they work. At the retreat, the board fine tunes the details of the plan, and makes the adjustment needed prior to developing annual work plans and budgets. Few organizations need to redo their entire strategic plan every year, but every group can adjust a plan on an annual basis to make it more relevant and accurate.

The retreat is also a great forum for board development activities. Here intensive orientation and training can be done to help board members do their jobs more effectively. The range of topic areas is limitless—from tours of existing

or potential land deals, to role-playing for a major donor campaign. This is the ideal forum for getting past the short discussions and getting board members more engaged in the work of the organization. In this way, planning is a strong board development activity.

This is also a great opportunity for the land trust to strengthen relationships. Through exercises and discussions, people in the organization can better understand where other people are coming from – how the visions of others are similar or different from their own. This is true between board members and staff members, between the board and other key supports or within the board itself.

These two investments—the board development committee and the annual retreat—are common among strong land trusts. They are among the best first steps for making any group more effective. While their costs are more than negligible, their payoff can be tremendous. ■

—Marc Smiley

Marc is an organizational development consultant; he works with land trusts throughout Wisconsin and across the nation. Marc has a website (www.marcsmile.com) that has a number of useful tools for organization development, including board development and planning.

“The board retreat is a tremendously useful tool for both planning and ongoing board development.”

—Marc Smiley

Members of Gathering Waters' Land Trust Coalition

American Farmland Trust - Upper Midwest Office
Balsam Branch Partnership
Baraboo Range Preservation Association
Bayfield Regional Conservancy
Caledonia Conservancy
Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation
Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation
Deer Lake Conservancy
Door County Land Trust
East Troy Area Lakes Land Trust
Faye Carney Gehl Land Trust
Friends of Pheasant Branch
Geneva Lakes Conservancy
GRASland Conservancy/Green Rock
Audubon
Green Lake Conservancy Foundation
Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation, Inc.
Kenosha/Racine Land Trust
Kinnickinnic River Land Trust
Lakeland Conservancy
Lauderdale Lakes Association
Last Wilderness Conservation Association
Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve
Madison Audubon Society
Mississippi Valley Conservancy
Muskego Lakes Land Conservancy
North Central Conservancy Trust
Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust
Ozaukee Washington Land Trust
Prairie Enthusiasts
Riverland Conservancy
Sheboygan Area Land Conservancy
Standing Cedars Community Land Conservancy
The Ridges Sanctuary
Town of Dunn
Trees for Tomorrow
Upper St. Croix River Land Trust
Urban Open Space Foundation
Waukesha Land Conservancy

Wisconsin Land Trust Updates

Aldo Leopold Foundation

In cooperation with the Prairie Enthusiasts the Leopold Foundation sponsors the Blufflands Project, a grass-roots effort to restore prairie and savanna remnants in the Lower Wisconsin River Valley. Steve Swenson was hired as the Foundation's Ecologist and Blufflands Project Manager. He gained ecological restoration experience at International Crane Foundation and has volunteered with Prairie Enthusiasts. The most recent addition to the Foundation's stewardship portfolio is the 400-acre Potter Preserve in the Baraboo Hills. For more information, contact Buddy Huffaker at 608-355-0279.

American Farmland Trust Upper Midwest Office

American Farmland Trust, the nation's largest farmland conservation group, opened an office to serve the upper Midwest last fall. The office, located in Verona, WI, will address farmland protection in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota and Iowa. Ed Minihan, the new upper Midwest field director, has served as board chair of the Town of Dunn, WI for the last 21 years. The Town became the first in Wisconsin to institute a farmland protection program. For more information, contact Ed Minihan at 608-848-7000.

Bayfield Regional Conservancy

The Bayfield Regional Conservancy (BRC) is providing technical assistance to the Town of Bell for an 8-acre purchase to provide access to Lake Superior in Cornucopia, WI. The BRC has prepared a grant request on behalf of the Town. After the closing in June, the Town will donate a conservation easement to the BRC. In December, the BRC sponsored meetings with fruit growers and elected officials to learn about farmland preservation tools. The BRC hopes to spark interest in developing a

Purchase of Development Rights program. For more information, call Ruth Oppedahl 715-779-LAND.

Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation

Late November brought an early Christmas gift—a surprise \$600,000 donation to the Dane County Parks Department on behalf of the DCNHF's Fish Lake Project by John Lussier. The foundation has been working to protect Fish Lake since fall 1998. The Dane County Board of Supervisors agreed to purchase the Fish Lake property from the foundation December 3. Eventually, the land will become a public natural area. A Lakes Protection Grant from the Wisconsin DNR will help offset the county's purchase price. The foundation has also applied to the DNR's Stewardship Program for help with the acquisition. For more information, call Danielle Wood at 608-258-9797.

Friends of Pheasant Branch

Current efforts are directed toward the long term protection, restoration and appropriate use of Pheasant Branch conservancy lands in an urbanizing watershed. The Friends played a key role in forming the North Fork of Pheasant Branch Task Force, a diverse umbrella group promoting watershed protection. The City of Middleton purchased land in the Airport Road area to assure that critical infiltration areas remain in open

Dan Burke, Terrie Cooper (Door County Land Trust), Jen Stewart (Riverland Conservancy) and Ruth Oppedahl (Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve and Bayfield Regional Conservancy) enjoy the GW Staff Retreat.



space. Criteria for low-impact development in the area will be established. A joint study by the UW and DNR will model the effectiveness of various best management practices for urban development. The Friends embarked on a campaign to hire a part-time Programs Manager and obtain office space. The Friends have a new website at www.pheasantbranch.org. For more information, call Tom Bernthal at 608-266-3033.

Jefferson County Land Trust

The Jefferson County Land Trust is proud to announce one of the first countywide Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Programs in Wisconsin. This Jefferson County PDR program is the result of the work of the JCLT and a revenue investment of \$20,000 by the Jefferson County government. The PDR program provides farmers with an opportunity to sell the development rights to their farm at market prices. The land trust will solicit applications, select farms and hold the eventual easements. For more information, call Greg David at 920-262-9996.

Kinnickinnic River Land Trust

Protection achievements include over 200 acres of land, including an entire feeder stream of the Kinni and a well-known river access point used by many visitors. The KRLT also worked with Pheasants Forever to purchase 100 acres of land in St. Croix County, adjacent to land owned by the Wisconsin DNR. While 100 acres of the newly purchased land will be given to the State for public open space, the KRLT will retain ownership of the feeder stream, Kelly Creek. The KRLT plans to use the site for educational opportunities, management, and restoration of the land and stream area. The KRLT also received conservation easement donations by two local families. The KRLT has a new



website at www.lambcom.net/krlt. For more information, call Rick McMonagle at 715-425-5738.

Lakeland Conservancy

In late 1998, Lakeland Conservancy received conservation easements from two adjoining property owners totaling more than 500 acres. The title to the land was transferred to the University of Wisconsin. The properties greatly enhance and broaden the area protected by Lakeland Conservancy near Lake Tomahawk in Oneida County. Furthermore, several small easements were obtained during the past year. The conservancy is continuing to broaden its base of community support and will be receiving funds from neighbors surrounding the recently donated tract of land. For more information, call Gregory Harrold at 715-356-9591.

Last Wilderness Conservation Association

The close of 1999 brought two new land acquisitions through fee simple donations. One parcel, 4.5 acres of lowland bog tamarack forest provides a corridor of undisturbed land between the Ottawa National Forest and a residential area. The second parcel is 5.77 acres with approximately 465 feet of Rock Lake frontage. Consisting primarily of lowland swamp, this parcel will remain undeveloped and undisturbed providing wildlife habitat in an ever-growing residential area. For more information, call Randy Boyle at 715-686-7441.

Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve

The Preserve is partnering with the Town of La Pointe to create a bike trail on Madeline Island. The Town received

Mississippi Valley Conservancy purchased 77-acre Sugar Creek Bluff to protect a bluffland and goat prairie near Ferryville.



Madison Audubon Society now holds a 67-acre easement in Jefferson County.

a T-21 transportation enhancement grant for the trail. Originally, the plan was for a bike lane on the roadside, but real estate costs and landowner opposition scuttled that plan. The Town then turned to the land trust and requested permission to site the trail on Preserve lands. Together, MIWP and the Town have worked out a route, which uses existing trails, sewer easements and old logging roads to minimize impact to the Preserve lands. The trail will take bicyclists from the ferry dock to the entrance of Big Bay State Park. Construction will start this summer. For more information, call Ruth Oppedahl at 715-747-5128.

Madison Audubon Society

Madison Audubon received an easement on 67 acres north of Lake Mills in Jefferson County. The land, adjacent to a 120-acre wetland owned by the University of Wisconsin, provides habitat for grassland and wetland wildlife (nesting bobolinks, green herons, sandhill cranes, wood ducks and hooded mergansers). The property contains restored prairie, old field, oak woodland and wetland communities. In November 1999, volunteers planted 25 acres of prairie with 90 species on a 50-acre parcel adjacent to Faville Grove State Natural Area. Madison Audubon acquired the parcel in 1998. For more information, contact Marsha Cannon at 608-255-2473.

Mississippi Valley Conservancy

The Conservancy permanently protected 404 acres of bluffs, wetlands, forests and prairies in 1999 through conservation easements, land donations, and

land acquisitions. These included 250 acres conserved in the La Crosse River Conservancy project through 2 land donations and MVC's first conservation easement with the City of La Crosse. The first conservation easement with a private landowner was completed on a 77-acre farm. MVC also conserved a threatened bluffland and goat prairie near Ferryville with the purchase of 77-acre Sugar Creek Bluff, aided by a large DNR Stewardship Grant. The Appraisals for Land Conservation workshop, supported by Gathering Waters, resulted in a dozen appraisers available to landowners seeking conservation easements in the region. For more information, call Cynthia Olmstead at 608-784-0257.

The Nature Conservancy

In December, the Conservancy protected an additional 160 acres of prairie at the Spring Green Preserve in Sauk County. The 160-acre tract, which is located at the heart of the Conservancy's preserve, consists of some of the highest quality dry sand and bluff prairie remaining in Wisconsin. Thanks to the donor's generosity and conservation ethic, this precious piece of Spring Green prairie will be protected for future generations. For more information, call 608-251-8140.

Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust

NEWLT added two conservation easements and its first gift of land to its list of protected sites in 1999. The easements preserve open space and managed forestlands close to Hartman Creek State Park in the rapidly developing Chain O Lakes area. The preserve is a beautiful spot on the Little Wolf River, home to a variety of wildlife and native plant communities. NEWLT is planning to focus on partnerships in the Wolf River basin as a model for becoming more proactive in their land protection efforts. For more information, call Leslie Taylor at 920-738-7265. ■

Preserve your land while saving on taxes: donate an easement to your local land trust

As you file your taxes for 1999, you may be interested to learn of the advantages of donating a conservation easement to one of Wisconsin's 40 land trusts. Easements allow you to preserve the land you love while enjoying significant income tax, estate tax and property tax savings.

Conservation easements are restrictions that landowners voluntarily place on their property to preserve their land's natural features or to protect valuable open space, farmland or scenic views. The easement and the right to enforce it are granted to a land trust. The landowner continues to own and utilize the property.

Income Taxes

A gift of a conservation easement is considered a charitable donation that may be deducted from a landowner's federal and state income taxes. To qualify for the deduction, the easement must meet the following IRS requirements. The easement must be permanent; must be donated to a qualified conservation organization such as a land trust; and must serve certain conservation purposes, ranging from the preservation of wildlife habitat, open space or scenic vistas to the protection of wetlands, water quality or farmland.

A qualified appraiser can determine the value of the conservation easement for tax purposes. In basic terms, the value of the easement is the difference between the land's value with the easement and its value without the easement. Note that the deduction is limited to 30 percent of adjusted gross income in the year of the gift. Easement donors, however, can carry forward any excess over the next five years subject to the same annual 30 percent limitation.

Estate Taxes

While the income tax savings of donating an easement may be significant, many landowners turn to easements for the estate tax benefits. As Boston attorney Steve Small says, most people who donate an easement "are primarily motivated by their love of the land and a looming estate tax problem." When a death occurs, families often find that their land is so valuable that they are forced to sell it just to cover the estate taxes.

Placing an easement on your property generally reduces its fair market value since it restricts future development. This reduced value will result in lower estate taxes. New federal tax laws passed in 1997 give additional estate tax breaks to people who donate easements near metropolitan areas, national parks and wilderness areas. Easement donors in these areas can take up to an additional 40 percent off the value of their land for estate purposes.

Property taxes

Finally, since a conservation easement typically reduces a property's value, easement donors may also see a reduction in their property tax bill. Wisconsin law requires that the tax assessor take into consideration the easement's effect on the value of a parcel of land.

Landowners who are interested in learning more about how they can protect their land while saving on their taxes should contact Gathering Waters. ■

—Vicki Elkin

Vicki is the Executive Director of Gathering Waters.

One Wisconsin landowner who recently placed a conservation easement on his 200-acre farm says that he was primarily motivated by love for his land. "I've owned this land for over 30 years and spent countless days and weekends restoring its degraded hillsides, pastures and woods. I wanted to see it preserved." But he was also concerned about his children's ability to manage the land after he's gone. "My family and I will save over \$120,000 in estate and income taxes because of the easement. I plan to set aside this money for my children so they can manage the land. This way, the property won't become a financial drain to them." The landowner also notes that the easement allows each of his children to build a home on the property if they wish.

Funding Opportunities

State Funds Available for Purchase of Development Rights

Good news for local governments and land trusts interested in purchasing development rights (PDR) from landowners. The Department of Natural Resources is offering grants specifically for PDR projects as part of the new state Stewardship program. Like other Stewardship grants, the DNR will pay up to 50 percent of the appraised value of the rights being purchased. Both local governments and non-profit organizations are eligible and encouraged to apply. Grant applications for this year are due May 1. Please call DNR's Janet Beach Hanson for information at 608-266-0868 or email Hansobjb@dnr.state.wi.us.

Otto Bremer Foundation

The Otto Bremer Foundation is committed to funding community development in the rural areas served by Bremer banks. The Foundation focuses on the following Wisconsin communities: Amery, Bayfield, Colfax, Danbury, Deer Park, Eau Galle, Elk Mound, Frederic, Knapp, LaPointe, Menomonie, Rock Falls, Siren and Washburn. Applications are accepted year round. Contact the Foundation at 651-227-8036 or <http://fdncenter.org/grantmaker/bremer/>.

Lake Protection & Planning Grants

The DNR provides matching funds for the protection or restoration of lakes and their ecosystems. Local governments, lake associations and non-profit organizations can submit applications. The DNR also provides funding for the collection and analysis of information needed to manage lakes. For more information on these DNR grants, contact your region's DNR District Inland Lake Coordinator, County Extension Office, or UWEX-Lakes Partnership, UW-Stevens Point 715-346-2116. ■

News You Can Use

Conserving Agricultural Lands

The Land Trust Alliance and The Conservation Fund are hosting a course on conserving agricultural lands (June 26-June 29). The course, in Racine, WI, will cover trends affecting agriculture, land and estate planning, PDR and other approaches to farmland protection. The cost for the course is \$425 for LTA Sponsors and \$525 for non-Sponsors. For more information, call LTA at 202-638-4725.

Wisconsin's Forest Legacy Program

The DNR is soliciting public input on the Forest Legacy Program, a federal initiative that provides grants to states for the purchase of fee title and easements on forestland. As part of the program, Wisconsin must identify environmentally important forests in the state that are threatened by conversion to other uses. Land trusts are encouraged to get involved in this program. Suggestions may be submitted to Linda DePaul at the WI DNR, PO Box 7921, 101 S. Webster, Madison, WI 53707 or 608-266-2388.

Grants Awarded to Wisconsin Land Trusts!

The Land Trust Alliance awarded grants to the following Wisconsin land trusts through their Great Lakes Grant Program.

- Bayfield Regional Conservancy, \$5,000 for membership development
- Gathering Waters, \$5,000 for membership development training
- Northeast Wisconsin Land Conservancy, \$4,700 for outreach and planning
- Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, \$2,500 for strategic planning

Gathering Waters' Supporters

Gathering Waters would like to thank the following individuals who made generous contributions during the past year. Please let us know if we have inadvertently left you off this list.

Anonymous (2)
Norm Anderson
Nancy Aten
Edie Beguelin
Francis Beidler III
Jon Belisle
Robert Benjamin
Vlasta Blaha
David Blecker
Virginia Bolger
Bob and Anne Bolz
Jack and Marian Bolz
Don Borde
Stephen Born
Robert Boucher
Steven Brezinski
David and Patricia
Carpenter
Richard Cates
Arlen Christenson
Honner and Bob Cooper
Thomas and Eileen Dawson
Lauren and Robert Dorman
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Robert Zeinemann
Joan and Peter Ziegler
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A Gathering Waters
Membership was given in
honor of Charles Brooks.

Thanks to MLS &
Company for the donation
of a desk for our office and
to B.C. Ziegler Company in
West Bend for hosting our
March 3 Board Meeting.

Gathering Waters gratefully thanks the following foundations and organizations for their support of our programs over the past year. These grants, together with annual membership dues, individual contributions and a grant from the state of Wisconsin, allow Gathering Waters to provide timely, affordable and high-quality technical assistance and information to land trusts, landowners and communities throughout Wisconsin.

- Land Trust Alliance
- The Eugenie Mayer Bolz Family Foundation
- The Frances Beidler Foundation
- Alliant Energy
- Environmental Support Center
- The Overture Foundation
- Northeast Wisconsin Audubon WeatherFriend Land Fund

Ways of Giving to Gathering Waters

■ Individuals may avoid paying capital gains taxes by donating appreciated stocks and bonds to Gathering Waters. Donors are entitled to a charitable income tax deduction equal to the full market value of the stock.

■ Individuals may also leave a bequest to Gathering Waters. A bequest is a gift made through a donor's will and is completely free from federal estate tax.

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Yes, I want to help land trusts & landowners protect Wisconsin's land and water resources by joining Gathering Waters!

Name _____

Address _____

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Please sign me up as a:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 - 49 | Forest Protector |
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Gathering Waters

303 S. Paterson St., Suite 6

Madison, WI 53703

- Please send information about how to volunteer.
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