



Gathering Waters Conservancy Celebrates 10 Years of Conservation!

As a black oak seedling matures, it overcomes threats from fire, enjoys spurts of spring growth, and becomes a home for lichens, food for squirrels, and a perch for birds. The tree's leaves fall each year providing ground cover for insects and nutrients for organisms in the soil. Soon, its shade will cool the earth, sheltering creatures during the heat of summer.

Much like this black oak, a strong organization grows over time into an indispensable resource. For Wisconsin land trusts, Gathering Waters Conservancy, at 10 years of age, embodies that resource. "Gathering Waters Conservancy is a library for minds," said one of its founding members. Gathering Waters exists as a reference and support center for land trusts new and old.

To celebrate 10 years of conservation, Gathering Waters Conservancy enjoyed a birthday party on April 23 at Club Majestic in Madison. Stay tuned for the next issue of *Crosscurrents* for photos and updates on this fun event.

Wild Plum

Wet meadow, dry hill, the black burnt stubs of broom grass, Queen Anne's lace and thistle stalks; we space the bushel bags of chaff and seed—grass or forbs—every fifty yards, fill our pails, sow this new burn on the Ice Age Trail. Wind winnows straw and dust from the flung harvest threshed at Hook Lake prairie. Dun and yellow seeds speckle ash as we criss-cross the acres: these will be scarified in winter ice, loosen in spring to root as prairie smoke, yellow puccoon, rough blazing star, spiderwort, turkeyfoot and little bluestem—a hundred more. We grow prickly with straw-filled mouths and hair, teary-eyed with dust, work steadily on to the song of flickers, magnolia warblers passing through, the early spring perfume of the wild plum hedgerow in massed white bloom.
—Robin Chapman

This poem originally appeared in The Comstock Review. Robin and other Wisconsin poets were featured at the Midwest Land Trust Conference in Madison on April 24.

In conjunction with the birthday party, Gathering Waters co-hosted the Midwest Land Trust Conference, "Conserving a Sense of Place." Land conservation professionals from across the region gathered to share ideas on innovative conservation strategies, land management techniques, and more. For details on these events, visit www.gatheringwaters.org.
—Althea Dotzour, Outreach and Policy Coordinator

Gathering Waters Celebrating
Conservancy 10 Years



"Gathering Waters invests in community-based conservation. We invest our time, resources, energies, and hopes in the people and organizations that have the vision to preserve what they love about Wisconsin today so that it can be enjoyed tomorrow."

— Vicki Elkin, Gathering Waters Conservancy Executive Director

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Gathering Waters

Conservancy's mission is to help the people and communities of Wisconsin protect their land and water resources by strengthening the state's land trust movement. As a statewide coalition and service center for Wisconsin's growing land trust community, Gathering Waters' goals are to increase the professionalism and build the capacity of the state's private, non-profit conservation organizations through technical assistance, training and continuing education.

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Gathering Waters is Ten Years Old!



JOHN URBAN

It seems hard to believe that Gathering Waters Conservancy is celebrating its 10th anniversary. In the six years that I've been working for Gathering Waters, I've seen the group grow from a one-person shop to the five person movement we are today. In light of our 10th anniversary, I've been thinking back on 10 of our accomplishments.

Supporting Grassroots Conservation

Growing Wisconsin's Land Trust Movement

Gathering Waters Conservancy has helped foster a thriving and vibrant land trust community. Since 1994, the number of land trusts in Wisconsin has grown from a handful of groups to 55 organizations with a combined membership of 45,000 individuals. While the energy, impetus and inspiration for forming land trusts

is truly local, Gathering Waters has provided these citizen groups with the information, tools and skills they need to succeed.

Building Land Trust Capacity

Gathering Waters has been a central source for land trusts statewide. From hosting conferences and workshops to facilitating strategic plans and developing membership recruitment strategies, Gathering Waters is a valuable resource for land trusts.

Empowering Landowners

Over the years, Gathering Waters has advised hundreds of landowners about their conservation options—resulting in the protection of thousands of acres statewide. Along with providing individual consultations, Gathering Waters has offered accredited workshops for attorneys, appraisers and other professionals who advise landowners. Gathering Waters has also published *In Their Own Words*, a collection of stories from Wisconsin landowners who have endowed land trusts with the protection of their property.

Lakeshore protected by the West Wisconsin Land Trust



Protecting Land

Land trusts have protected an impressive 125,000 acres in Wisconsin—much of this with support and guidance from Gathering Waters. Gathering Waters Conservancy has directly protected over 600 acres of land.

Promoting Sound Conservation Policies

Saving the Stewardship Fund, and again!

In 2002, and again in 2003, Gathering Waters led successful efforts to save the Stewardship Fund from devastating budget cuts. With the support of our grassroots Land Trust Policy Network, Gathering Waters has worked to see that the Stewardship Fund remains fully funded and tens of thousands of acres of our natural heritage are protected as a result.

Growing Stewardship

Despite recent attacks on the program, Gathering Waters Conservancy actually helped enrich the Stewardship Fund from \$25 to \$46 to \$60 million over the past five years. Thanks to our efforts, land trusts are now eligible for \$8 million a year in Stewardship grants and have raised over \$25 million to date to match state Stewardship dollars.

Creating Tax Incentives for Conservation

Early on, Gathering Waters' founders played an instrumental role in procuring tax exemptions for lands owned by land trusts and open to the public. Thanks to our efforts, local assessors must also take into consideration conservation easements when determining land values for property tax purposes.



Charly Ray of the Living Forest Cooperative and **Liz Quast**, a landowner who donated an easement, on working forest lands.

Fostering Creative and Effective Conservation Partnerships

Organizing Grassroots Constituencies for Conservation

In 2002, Gathering Waters helped organize six “County Conservation Coalitions” to advocate for conservation policies while advancing on-the-ground conservation projects in southeast Wisconsin. These “C3’s” have become a force for conservation! In Milwaukee County, MC3 now includes over 40 organizations speaking with a united voice on policy issues while working together to protect the area’s remaining wetlands, river corridors, wildlife habitat, and other natural areas and open spaces.

Protecting Landscapes of Opportunity along Lake Michigan

Gathering Waters Conservancy launched an initiative for the Lake Michigan Basin called *Partners in Preservation* in 2001. This innovative approach strengthens individual land trusts while conserving critical lands in the region. Gathering Waters provides site conservation training and helps improve regional coordination in order to better protect and manage valuable lands in the Basin.

Connecting and Leveraging Wisconsin Land Trusts

Through its policy efforts, educational programs, and land protection resources, Gathering Waters has helped to connect and integrate Wisconsin land trusts. Annual land trust staff retreats and programs like *Partners in Preservation* and “County Conservation Coalitions” have helped individual groups throughout the state network and work as part of a much bigger effort.

It’s been a terrific 10 years, and we’re looking forward to working with you to build on this work to make the next decade even better. Thanks to all who have been part of our success.

—Vicki Elkin, Executive Director



Welcome New Staff

Many new faces have been popping up in the Gathering Waters office!



Pam Foster Felt

Pam Foster Felt joined the staff in November 2003 as the Program Coordinator. Whether you are a land owner or a land trust, look to Pam for educational materials, technical information, and programs. Pam comes to Gathering Waters via a career path that includes high school teaching, and mountaineering instruction. She received her Master's Degree in Environmental History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Althea Dotzour

Althea Dotzour came on board as the new Outreach and Policy Coordinator in March 2004. She previously worked at the Ecosystem Management Initiative researching collaborative resource management issues. Althea received a Master's degree in Natural Resource Policy and Behavior from the School of Natural Resources & Environment at the University of Michigan.



Katie MacKendrick

Sara DeKok, previously a Program Assistant for Gathering Waters, has taken on new responsibilities as the Membership Coordinator. Sara attends graduate school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, studying Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development.

Tuyet Nguyen is working part time as Gathering Waters' Program Assistant. Tuyet is a student in the Education Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is planning to be a teacher.



Beth Bier

Julia Brauer, a graduate student in the Land Resources program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, joined the Gathering Waters staff as a volunteer intern in January 2004 and will continue her work with us this summer as a Doris Duke Conservation Fellow. Julia will work primarily with the *Partners in Preservation* program.

Katie MacKendrick, a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, is volunteering with us this spring. Katie is majoring in Conservation Biology and Life Sciences Communications, and assisting Althea on several outreach projects.

A warm welcome to all new staff and volunteers, and thanks for your hard work!

Best Wishes!

Beth Bier, Gathering Waters' former Outreach and Policy Coordinator, moved back to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to work in the Secretary's office in January 2004. Beth has been with Gathering Waters since February 2002 and was instrumental in Gathering Waters' efforts to protect the Stewardship Fund. She also edited *Crosscurrents* and organized the first Land Conservation Leadership Awards Celebration last September. We'll miss you, Beth!

Phil Kerckhoff, Director of Development and Communications left Gathering Waters Conservancy in January 2004. Under his guidance over the past two years, Gathering Waters' membership nearly doubled. We're poised for a successful future.

Congratulations!

Gathering Waters Conservancy intern **Julia Brauer** recently received the prestigious Doris Duke Fellowship at the Institute for Environmental Studies at the UW-Madison. These Fellowships are awarded to master's degree students who show outstanding promise as future leaders in nonprofit or governmental conservation. Julia plans to use the Fellowship's summer internship to work at Gathering Waters on the Northwest Wisconsin *Partners in Preservation* Program.

Thank You!

- **Blacksmith Inn** in Bailey's Harbor for hosting GWC staff during the Door County Land Trust's strategic planning session
- **Vicki Blank** for GIS mapping for GWC's Partners in Preservation program
- **Cafe Montmartre** for donating space for the Conference poetry reading
- **The Creamery** for offering a discount for the land trust staff retreat
- **Vickie Hall** for hosting GWC staff during the Glacial Lakes Conservancy strategic planning session
- **Karl Hassrick** for helping set up the land trust survey and providing computer assistance
- **Kinko's** for offering discounted holiday cards
- **Ellen Kort, Catherine Jagoe, Robin Chapman, and Hans Ribbens** for volunteering to read their poetry at the Midwest Land Trust Conference
- **Katie MacKendrick, Julia Brauer, and Sean DeKok** for volunteering their time to help in the Gathering Waters office
- **Howard and Nancy Mead** for hosting a party honoring Bud Jordahl, recently-retired President of GWC
- **Michael Best & Friedrich** for hosting our January board meeting
- **Bob Rashid** for donating the holiday card photo
- **Jeff Strobel** for designing the conference brochure and birthday party invitation

Gathering Waters Conservancy's Members

Baird Creek Parkway Preservation Foundation
Balsam Branch Partnership
Baraboo Range Preservation Association
Bayfield Regional Conservancy
Caledonia Conservancy
Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation
Chippewa County Land Conservancy
Couderay Waters Regional Land Trust
Deer Lake Conservancy
Door County Land Trust
Driftless Area Land Conservancy
Faye Carney Gehl Land Trust
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Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy
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Mississippi Valley Conservancy
Muskego Lakes Conservancy
Natural Heritage Land Trust
North Central Conservancy Trust
Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust
Northwoods Land Trust, Inc.
Oak Creek Land Trust
Ozaukee Washington Land Trust
Ridges Sanctuary, Inc.
River Revitalization Foundation
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Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust
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The Nature Conservancy
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Trees for Tomorrow
Twin Lakes Conservancy
Walworth County Land Conservancy
Waukesha Land Conservancy
West Wisconsin Land Trust
Wisconsin Woodland Owners Foundation

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Recent Achievements by Wisconsin's Land Trusts

Wisconsin's 55 land trusts have been making great strides for conservation. This issue of *Crosscurrents* highlights some of the recent successes and shares some ways in which Gathering Waters Conservancy has helped Wisconsin's land trusts achieve their goals.



Baraboo Range Preservation Association (BRPA)

In 2003, the Baraboo Range Preservation Association accepted two property easements totaling 120 acres. BRPA extends thanks to Gathering Waters Conservancy for greatly increasing its stability and capacity to protect the Baraboo Range and serve its residents, through technical assistance, advice, and encouragement, and by playing a critical role in developing its relationship with The Nature Conservancy.



Bayfield Regional Conservancy (BRC)

The Bayfield Regional Conservancy purchased the development rights for two outstanding orchards in Bayfield in 2003. This purchase helps increase protection of the rural landscape and helps support the local agricultural economy. With seven properties and 558 acres protected to date, BRC thanks Gathering Waters for providing a staff retreat that brought staff from around the state together to share ideas and learn from each other.

Door County Land Trust (DCLT)



After 16 years and 2,700 acres protected, the Door County Land Trust continues to increase the protection of blufflands, wetlands, forests, and open space in Door County. DCLT purchased the Lautenbach Woods along the Niagra Escarpment in 2003, protecting forever one of the most scenic and ecologically important properties on the Door

Peninsula. DCLT thanks Gathering Waters for facilitating its Strategic Planning Retreat and being instrumental in helping DCLT plan for its future.



Geneva Lake Conservancy (GLC)

In November 2003, the Geneva Lake Conservancy received a conservation easement on a 240-acre family farm, which prohibits subdivision of the property, promotes wildlife habitat, and protects an endangered plant community. GLC thanks Gathering Waters for being a "go-to" resource—providing technical and training assistance, representation and advocacy at the state government level, and valuable information on land conservation topics.



Mississippi Valley Conservancy (MVC)

In 2002, the City of La Crosse allocated \$200,000 to the Mississippi Valley Conservancy to purchase lands and easements for scenic value, recreation and conservation, as part of the joint Bluffland Protection Program. In 2003, MVC worked with land owners in Vernon and Grant counties to conserve nearly 200 acres (its first conservation easements in each county). MVC thanks Gathering Waters for being instrumental in helping land trusts focus their policy efforts, especially in regards to the Stewardship Program. A gallant effort by all.



Natural Heritage Land Trust (NHLT)

To date, the Natural Heritage Land Trust has protected 2,946 acres of wetland, prairie, woodland, lakeshore, springs, savannah and family farmland. In 2003, NHLT initiated site conservation planning for the Upper Sugar River priority area and assisted the Town of Merrimac in purchasing land to create a town park on Lake Wisconsin. NHLT thanks Gathering Waters for facilitating its site conservation planning for the Upper Sugar River priority area and also for leading the effort to protect the state Stewardship program.



Northwoods Land Trust, Inc. (NWLTL)

The Northwoods Land Trust received its first two conservation easements at the end of 2003. These two easements will permanently conserve about 29 acres of woodland habitat and over 2,500 feet of natural shoreland frontage on two lakes near Eagle River in Vilas County. NWLT thanks Gathering Waters for providing examples of baseline documentation useful in creating its first easements.

Twin Lakes Conservancy (TLC)

In 2004, TLC plans to protect 13 acres of undeveloped shoreline on Twin Lakes in Marquette County. The Twin Lakes Conservancy of Westfield, Wisconsin thanks Gathering Waters for all it does providing extremely valuable, friendly and timely assistance.



Spring flowers blanket the ground in a Waukesha Land Conservancy property.

Waukesha Land Conservancy (WLC)

The Waukesha Land Conservancy acquired two easements and purchased 351 acres in 2003. The 351-acre property, named the Ottawa Wildlife Refuge, contains wetlands that are part of a locally significant wetland complex natural area and lands that are designated as Primary Environmental Corridor and Class I Wildlife Habitat. The Waukesha Land Conservancy thanks Gathering Waters for its invaluable presence in Madison working to protect the Stewardship Fund.

Legislative Update

Gathering Waters Conservancy will never forget our successful fight last year to save the state Stewardship Fund from devastating budget cuts. Unfortunately, threats to this and other programs continue. You can count on Gathering Waters Conservancy to make sure your voice is heard at the state Capitol.

Here's an update on some bills that were introduced this session that would affect the Stewardship Fund. None of these bills became law.

In January, SB 394 was introduced by Senator Schultz with the intent of increasing public awareness of lands preserved through the Stewardship Fund through signage, an interactive website, and a printed directory. Lawmakers worked with the land trust community to amend concerns, however the bill was not passed before the end of the legislative session.

AB 528/SB 252 would have reinstated the Joint Finance Committee's ability to review Stewardship purchases at or above \$250,000. This bill was passed by the Legislature but was vetoed by Governor Doyle. (Background: In July 2003, a provision was passed by the Legislature to review all Stewardship purchases. Governor Doyle, using his veto, eliminated the ability of Joint Finance Committee to review any purchase.)

AB 480 was aimed at reducing the Stewardship Fund by \$245 million. This bill passed the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources in March, but was not voted on in the Rules Committee.

AB 303 attempted to cut the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund by: limiting easements to 30 years, prohibiting of DNR stewardship acquisitions in counties where 50% of the land is in public ownership, and requiring the Natural Resources Board to approve non-profit grants within 365 days of title acquisition. This bill was not voted on by the Committee on Natural Resources.

AB 618 was designed to create a trust fund for private donations to the Stewardship Fund. This bill passed the Committee on Natural Resources but was not voted on by the Rules Committee before the end of the legislative session.

— Althea Dotzour, Gathering Waters Conservancy Outreach and Policy Coordinator

Your Vote Matters: The Future Starts Now



A 2004 presidential election is coming soon! The first step in taking part is registering to vote. Gathering Waters Conservancy has partnered with Working Assets to register voters. To fill out a voter registration form online, just go to www.gatheringwaters.org.

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A special thank you to the Quixote Foundation for a major grant to support our work in Northern Wisconsin.

Gathering Waters Conservancy Hosts “Feng Shui for Land Trusts”

Did you know that cultivating healthy plants in your office can help harness the motivating energy, chi, to bring your land trust its due fortune?

While the 2004 Staff Retreat, *Feng Shui for Land Trusts*, did not include pointers for furniture arrangement or floral design, it did offer participants insights into organizational arrangements that encourage success. Despite board meetings, ski races, and car trouble, about 20 land trust employees from around the state met outside Menominee for two days in February.

In the bright conference room at the Creamery Inn, Tom Bailey, Executive Director of the Little Traverse Conservancy, imparted advice about dividing labor wisely between board and staff, recruiting major donors, transferring responsibilities to a growing staff, and smart financial-legal planning. He stressed the importance of safeguarding your own personal energy, as well as identifying the pitfalls of “burnout” in this passionate business of land protection.

Addressing financial fortunes, Sherrie Beal, head of major donor relations for the Nature Conservancy in Minnesota, brought suggestions about direct mail and major donor-relationship cultivation. Sherrie Beal and Rick Gauger of the West Wisconsin Land Trust spoke highly of their experience at St. Thomas University’s Center for Non-Profit Management. See the sidebar for more information.

Door County and Kinnickinnic River land trusts brought GIS demonstrations and shared strategies for accurate baseline documentation and GIS-assisted planning.

This year in Western Wisconsin, wintertime meant great snow cover and bright afternoons. In keeping with Tom Bailey’s advice to honor our personal mental health, participants laced up ski boots and chased two Birkebeiner competitors—Rick Gauger and Cheryl Bursik—down the Red Cedar River Trail in the late day sunshine.

Ideas for the 2005 Land Trust Staff Retreat are already brewing. Anyone with input or ideas should feel free to contact Pam Foster Felt at Gathering Waters.

—Pam Foster Felt, Program Coordinator

University of St. Thomas Center for Non-Profit Management:

<http://www.stthomas.edu/cnm/>

Anyone interested in Sherrie Beal’s outline about fundraising building blocks and direct mail advice, contact Pam at Gathering Waters—608-251-9131 or pfelt@gatheringwaters.org



Dan Burke, Rick Gauger, Karen Bassler, and Christine Thisted await dinner

Christine Thisted from the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation brought ideas about the strengths and shortcomings of chapter structures



Gathering Waters Conservancy Highlights Landowner Conservation Stories

Gathering Waters Conservancy's publication *In Their Own Words*, includes essays, poems, and interviews with landowners from across Wisconsin who chose to preserve their land from development. Grounded in a love for their land, these landowners have shown remarkable vision by placing their properties in the care of their local land trusts.



What follows are several excerpts from this publication. If you would like to order a copy of *In Their Own Words*, to see these and many more personal stories of land conservation, please contact Gathering Waters Conservancy at (608) 251-9131 (\$3 for one copy; \$5 for two copies, \$10 for 5 copies).

I Wish I Could Do More

"I own 32 acres on the Door County Peninsula north of Baileys Harbor (the Lake Michigan side). It is a unique bit of land with mature hardwoods and a limestone bluff that drops 40' to what was a salt-water sea thousands of years ago. I often find fossilized coral in the lower

[The McCurdy property in winter](#)



section. Over the 20 years I have lived here, I have planted over 17,000 trees (about 35% deciduous hard woods).

Door County is an ecologically fragile place that has become a popular tourist area, in large part due to the natural beauty. Because of this beauty and easy accessibility it has also attracted development that has gone unchecked perhaps beyond what the environment can tolerate. In short, the natural beauty is being destroyed by ruthless over-development (which is happening in lots of places not just here). Many of us are concerned and feel a need for stewardship to protect this precious place. By putting our properties into a land trust we are able to protect portions of this precious place for generations to come. Many of us also try to give financial and moral support to the mission of the land trust, assisting the trust to acquire prized parcels of land to come under its protection.

It is disturbing to see condo complexes overrunning what were once beautiful hillsides of endless orchards or natural woodlands, to see one and two million dollar houses being constructed on the bluffs and shorelines that are occupied less than a month out of each year by their owners, to see our property taxes skyrocketing because of the formulas that are used to evaluate properties when an adjacent property is sold for an ungodly price. It is sad to see old people who have lived here for generations having to sell off their homesteads because they can no longer afford to live here, to see habitat being destroyed threatening numerous species of flora and fauna.

I wish I could do more. I'm glad I have been able to do something."

*Bob McCurdy
32-acre easement
Baileys Harbor, WI
Door County Land Trust*

“We’ve come a long way”

Ed Drager spends his summers at Monahan Forest, a 360-acre parcel of land in Vilas County that his father purchased in the 1930s. Drager opted for an easement that required the land to be managed as a sustained-yield forest. He gives a portion of the timber sales to the outdoor education camp Trees for Tomorrow and in return receives free yearly inspections and land management guidance from the group. Although the forest is actively managed, Ed wanted the easement to limit future development on the property. Ed Drager’s easement agreement allows for him to expand on the existing house and build two more residences on his property, restricting them to 2000 square feet each and located at least 200 feet away from the shoreline. The property cannot be subdivided or used for commercial operations at any time. Here’s Ed’s story, in his own words:

“Our family originally acquired the 360 acre tract that is now known as Monahan Forest in 1932 when my dad purchased the land from Vilas County. It was almost an island of timbered land in a vast expanse of burned over and cut over lands. It had a small lake and the head of the Little Tamarack River. My dad loved to fish and hunt and figured that he could use the land for these purposes and could also have his own forest to work in and preserve for posterity.

My dad hunted and fished until after the Second World War, when he started to selectively log the lands to improve the stand of timber. The first management plan was done for him by Trees For Tomorrow of Eagle River in 1945 and has been updated and revised every ten to fifteen years since. He continued to extract timber so until his death in 1989, and my sister and I then took up the timber harvesting chores and continue them today. He always told me that he hoped that the land could forever be a forest managed to continue to produce timber while becoming a better forest in the process.

After his death, my sister and I discussed how we could accomplish his goals and keep them

going after we both were gone. I finally heard about conservation easements in the early 1990s but had a bit of trouble getting the information that I needed to fully understand how they worked and how one went about getting one written. After several years and discussions with attorneys who knew what I was talking about, I finally decided that I had best write what I wanted, since I am also an attorney. I finally got a draft of what we wanted to do and gave it to Trees For Tomorrow, as there was no one else that I could find willing to take the easement.

The entire family is pleased with the easement, and the ability to protect lands forever from being split into lots, with a number of owners each putting up a cabin and creating their own method of managing the property. The easement allows for two additional cabins to be built on the property at a distance greater than 200 feet from the lake and stream. No commercial activities can be done on the property and no additional roads can be built. The easement provides for regular management and harvesting of the forest, and we provided that one half of the proceeds of the timber harvest should go to Trees For Tomorrow because of their long standing interest in the property and their need to administer the easement.

Trees For Tomorrow was helpful in working with us to create a favorable atmosphere to taking the easement. There was no local land trust in the area at the time we were working on the easement. I am pleased with the easement and the arrangement with Trees, but am also happy that there is now the North Woods Land Trust of which I am a member on the Board of Directors. The information regarding conservation easements and even free help in writing one is readily available through Gathering Waters and many local land trusts. We have come a long way in the past ten years.”

Ed Drager
360-acre conservation easement
Vilas County
Trees for Tomorrow



Echinacea purpurea

**In this edition of
Crosscurrents**

Celebrating 10 years of
Conservation1
From the Executive
Director 2-3
Welcome & Farewell 4
Thank you 5
Recent Land Trust
Achievements 6-7
New GWC Donors 8
Feng Shui for Land Trusts .. 9
Stories of Land
Protection 10-11

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New Ways to Give:

Donate to Gathering Waters Conservancy Through a Payroll Deduction

Gathering Waters Conservancy is a new member of Community Shares of Wisconsin, an umbrella organization that raises funds to support 60 local nonprofit groups that address social, economic and environmental issues through grassroots activities, advocacy, research, and public education.

Community Shares of Wisconsin helps Gathering Waters raise funds through private and public-sector employee payroll-deduction campaigns in the fall. We also have a newly developed online giving campaign. If you would like to find out how to give to Gathering Waters through a payroll deduction at work, contact Althea Dotzour at althea@gatheringwaters.org. Explore ways to give to Gathering Waters at www.gatheringwaters.org and click on "Become a Member."

Gathering Waters now accepts credit cards

If you would like to donate to Gathering Waters Conservancy or would like to purchase some of our materials (including the publications *In Their Own Words*, *Appraising Conservation Easements*, and *Preserving Family Lands* books 1-3), we now accept credit cards! To find out more, either check our website or call us at 608-251-9131.

