

CROSS CURRENTS

YOUR DONOR REPORT

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Supporters like you ensure the future of Wisconsin's land legacy

“It’s the land that needs to live forever to secure the well-being of all those who come after us.” ~Sarah Perry

Recently, Creal Zearing, Gathering Waters’ Director of Philanthropy, sat down with longtime conservation supporter, Sarah Perry, to talk about her passion for protecting special places in Wisconsin.

“Like many people, my life has been blessed,” said Sarah. “And now, I want to make a difference that lasts longer than the eight or nine decades that I’m able to walk this earth.”

Sarah’s interest in land protection started at a young age in northern Wisconsin.

“I grew up in Merrill, but every summer our family moved up to our cottage in Eagle River,” Sarah remembered. “We loved being on the lake, swimming, and visiting friends. It was magical.

“My father purchased land in northern Wisconsin, but his love of trees and nature stopped him from clearing the land.

“After losing several people in my life, I took pause. So few things last forever. My family loved being in nature together — in the forest,



Photo Courtesy of Sarah Perry



Sarah contacted Northwoods Land Trust (NWLTL) to protect the wooded acreage her dad loved so much. It was one of NWLTL’s first conservation easements.

at the lake. I wanted to pay tribute to them by protecting the places where we shared so many family memories and so much love.

“I also began to wonder if people would remember me after I’m gone. Thoughts of making a lasting change kept coming to me.

“I asked myself, what can I do that will not end — what can I do that will keep going?”

“That’s when I decided to make estate gifts to Northwoods Land Trust and Gathering Waters to help create a lasting legacy of land protection.”

Supporters like you and Sarah can ensure the future of land protection in Wisconsin.

To read more of Sarah’s story, visit gatheringwaters.org/SarahPerry



Photo by Mike Carlson, Gathering Waters



Photo by Mike Carlson, Gathering Waters



Photo by Great Zeaming, Gathering Waters

Thanks to your support, individuals experienced the wonder of protected special places during Land Trust Days.

You helped make Land Trust Days a success!

During Land Trust Days, over 500 people requested and received Nature Guides, which were funded in part by the Green Bay Packers Foundation



Land Trust Days 2023 is a wrap. Thank you for another successful year of helping people connect with the land and land trusts.

Because of your support, the sixth annual Wisconsin Land Trust Days celebration spanned three months instead of two.

Thank you for helping people experience Wisconsin's special places for themselves.

Twenty-one Wisconsin land trusts hosted forty-three events from July through September.

- Children learned about frogs and butterflies.
- People volunteered during and after events.
- Hikers explored plant life in protected areas.

You can learn more about this year's events and request your own nature guide at gatheringwaters.org/2023WLTD

Thank you for helping promote land trusts.

You supported students as they gained real-world experience in the conservation field

Interns Tina Tran and Dane Friis worked with Gathering Waters this summer. They represent the next generation who will carry on the legacy of conservation.



Tina Tran came to us through the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin's 2023 Diversity in Conservation Internship program.

Tina spent 10 weeks at Gathering Waters, learning about how a nonprofit conservation organization works. She helped with outreach and communications, including our advocacy efforts. She had an opportunity to shadow staff and accompanied them to the governor's office to attend the state budget signing ceremony.

Tina, a junior at UW-Madison, is double majoring in political science and geography with a certificate in public policy.

Tina is passionate about environmental policy and plans to explore career options that will make a positive difference on society.

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You helped make a community forest a reality

Northwoods Alliance, a new member land trust, believes land conservation benefits our society, environment, and economy



Photo by Rod Sharka, Courtesy of Northwoods Alliance and Partners in Forestry

Individuals with vision can accomplish great things. “If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito.” ~Dalai Lama

Northwoods Alliance (NWA) began in 1981 to oppose the placement of a nuclear waste depository in the Midwest.

Today, Wisconsin’s newest land trust member protects lands in the border lakes region and the Lake Superior watershed.

Their efforts have resulted in the permanent protection of the **Headwaters Cedar Community Forest**.

NWA raised private funds and secured funding from the US Forest Service’s Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program to protect 200 acres.

But to complete the purchase, NWA had to secure a \$215,000

matching grant from Wisconsin’s **Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program**.

Your advocacy efforts through Team Knowles Nelson helped make Headwaters Cedar Community Forest possible.

The forest supports a diverse array of trees and creates a rich habitat for birds, bobcats, black bears, and other wildlife. It also complements a critical wildlife corridor from the surrounding Northern Highland State Forest into the Ottawa National Forest.

NWA became a land trust member of Gathering Waters in 2023.

“Joining Gathering Waters has been a long-term goal,” said

Joe Hovel, Director of Daily Operations and author of *From Barbells to Spruce Grouse: A 50-Year Journey of Land Conservation*. “But NWA didn’t own property in Wisconsin until we purchased Headwaters Cedar Community Forest. As development in the Northwoods increases, saving this type of habitat is a priority, being part of Gathering Waters is key to our future growth.”

Your support has strengthened land trusts and secured state funding. Thank you for helping Northwoods Alliance and its peers, Northwoods Land Trust and Landmark Conservancy, protect land in northern Wisconsin.

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Dane Friis joined our Gathering Waters’ staff this summer to create digital maps showing protected lands in Wisconsin.



Dane plotted Knowles-Nelson Stewardship projects, including state-trail locations. This work makes it easier to show lawmakers how land conservation benefits their constituents.

Dane, who holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resource Management and Planning, is pursuing his master’s degree in community and conservation planning at his alma mater UW–Stevens Point.

After graduation, Dane plans to serve people with his passion for conservation.

We look forward to the impacts Dane and Tina will have on conservation in the future.

Because of your support, two more young professionals are poised to advance conservation in the future.

You can help spread the word: Land protection is climate action!



WILL YOU MAKE A GIFT OF \$100 OR MORE TO HELP FIGHT THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE?

You can help more people learn how land protection combats climate change

Canadian wildfire smoke. Drought. Weeks of dangerous, triple-digit heat in the southern U.S. A startling video of a three-story house crumbling into the floodwaters of a rapidly melting glacier in Alaska.

We've been warned for years. Now, we are seeing and experiencing the effects of climate change.

We can add September's heat to the mix. It didn't just break global records; it obliterated them!

Will you send a special gift of \$100, \$150, \$200 or more to help protect land as a defense against climate change?

It's scary to think that the decisions we make today will profoundly impact the world tomorrow — the world our children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews will inherit.

Right now, it's urgent that we do all we can to slow the effects of climate change and protect

Wisconsin's lands and waters.

Will you help with a special one-time gift of \$100, \$150, \$200, or more?

Most of Wisconsin's land is privately owned. That's why your support of land trusts and conservation is key. Land trusts work with landowners to preserve and protect private land forever.

When we protect the land, it works for all of us. Each gift you make will help:

- Let the trees grow
- Keep wetlands whole
- Restore grasslands
- Keep wild places wild
- Connect wildlife habitat, and
- Encourage farming practices that restore soil health for more nutritious food tomorrow

All of these efforts will help fight climate change.

Will you send a special gift to help protect land and fight the harmful effects of climate change?

I want to help protect more land and fight climate change!

YES! Please use my gift to help protect Wisconsin's land and combat the harmful effects of climate change and support all the work of Gathering Waters.

Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$100 to help protect land and fight the harmful effects of climate change.
- \$150 to help protect land and fight the harmful effects of climate change.
- \$200 to help protect land and fight the harmful effects of climate change.
- I'm sending my best gift of \$ _____ to help protect land and fight the harmful effects of climate change.

I am giving: by check. by credit card. by DAF or IRA distribution. I want to learn more about including GW in my estate plan.