

*helping landowners
preserve northwest
Wisconsin's land legacy*

Volume 9, Spring 2009

BRC Acquires Key Property For Lost Creek Bog Natural Area

The Bayfield Regional Conservancy recently purchased 17.5 acres of wetlands and uplands in the Town of Bell located adjacent to the Lost Creek Bog State Natural Area along its eastern boundary.

The newly acquired property will ultimately be conveyed to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, once the necessary funding is released, to be annexed onto the 513-acre Lost Creek Bog State Natural Area.

"BRC's role is key to helping us fulfill our acquisition goals for the State Natural Area," said Wisconsin DNR Wildlife Biologist Greg Kessler. "The Conservancy stepped in and purchased the property from a willing land owner who wanted to sell right away, at a time when the DNR could not act because of a lack of funding."

Kessler also noted that the property, which represents 10 percent of their remaining land acquisition goals, was also highly threatened as it is upland, is developable, and has Highway 13 frontage.

According to Karin Kozie, BRC's board president and a wildlife biologist, the Lost Creek Bog site "is an amazing ecological wetland that helps maintain the integrity of an important Lake Superior estuary and contains a number of rare plant and wildlife species. The Conservancy purchase was made possible through a generous donation to our Land Conservation Fund from one of our members."

Not long ago BRC established this internal revolving loan fund to allow it to act quickly when land of conservation value comes up for sale. The Conservancy then pays itself back either through fund raising or by selling the property to a conservation buyer, in this case the DNR, so that it always has a fund when there is a need to act quickly.

With this purchase, the Lost Creek Bog State Natural Area is now at 70-80 percent completion of what is required to ensure the long term viability of the endangered species and wetland communities that occur there. According to BRC Executive Director Ellen Kwiatkowski, "It is very important to not only preserve the wetlands themselves but to also protect an upland buffer adjacent to that area. Many animals use those transition areas between the habitats and they are also important for filtering sediments and pollutants from runoff, which can adversely impact the wetlands. The purchase of this property helps to secure some of that buffer."

For more information on Lost Creek Bog State Natural Area visit:
www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/sna/san274.htm ●



Photos by E. Epstein



We have a new home!

BRC has moved to a new office on the corner of First Street and Washington Avenue in Bayfield. We are just a short walk up from the ferry and have an easy-to-access, street-level location. We also have a significant amount of additional space for our growing office staff and are better equipped to hold meeting right here. Come and visit us!

Thank you so much to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped us move to our new location: Bill Bussey, Gene Lemmenes, Grandon Harris, Shari Eggleston, Karin Kozie, John Nedden-Durst, Eric Carlson and Ryan Durst.

From the Director

By Ellen Kwiatkowski

It's been quite a busy and exciting two months since taking the reigns of the Executive Director position with the Bayfield Regional Conservancy. As many of you know, with the help of a cadre of energetic volunteers, we moved into a new office and are very thankful to our membership for supporting this move. Many of you even gave a little extra donation during our special appeal in order to help finance the move and we are very thankful for that.



In addition to the move other changes include the hiring of two new staff: an office manager to handle our office operations and a conservation planner to head up the strategic conservation plan that I had begun before becoming executive director.

I feel very fortunate and am absolutely elated to be working for the membership in this new capacity after having served on the Land Projects Committee and the Board of Directors. BRC is a vibrant organization with a very active, dedicated membership and Board of Directors and the organization is well poised to grow in response to the urgency of our mission.

And there's no doubt about it, I certainly have some big shoes to fill and have a wonderfully strong organizational foundation and portfolio to build upon. Under the leadership of Ruth Oppedahl, the Conservancy's Board, members and major donors have protected approximately 2,500 acres, including five miles of lake and river shoreland, through fee acquisitions and preservation agreements.

Some of these projects, such as Mt. Ashwabay have come to fruition through incredibly creative, successful partnerships and with the help of generous donors, our membership, federal grant programs, and advocacy of our state representatives and congressmen. While other projects, such as the establishment of the Brownstone trail were possible due to the willingness of landowners to donate easements for the greater good of the community and by so doing, they help to ensure, if not increase, the quality of life in our communities.

Additionally, during Ruth's tenure, BRC and the Town of Bayfield, pioneered farmland preservation in northern Wisconsin and together we have protected four orchards from the potential final crop of subdivisions. It is obvious that BRC's success has been made possible by a visionary, committed community.

I look forward to working with you and our Board of Directors as we build upon our portfolio of protected areas by more proactively engaging in conservation actions and programs in areas that are identified as priorities for conservation through our Strategic Conservation Plan.

There is still much work to be done to accomplish our mission to protect natural lands, waters, forests, farms, and places of scenic, spiritual and historic value in our region. Thank you for your continued support in our region—we couldn't accomplish our goals without you. ●



Bayfield Regional Conservancy

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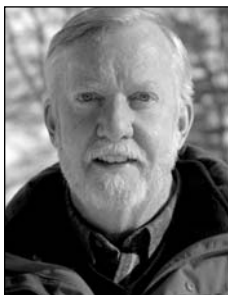
Board of Directors:

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Shari Eggleston, *Secretary*
Janet Dale, *Treasurer*
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Dennis McCann
Howard Paap
Dean Rau
Harold Vanselow

The Bayfield Regional Conservancy is a non-profit land trust dedicated to the protection and preservation of natural areas, lakes, wetlands, farms and forests of northwestern Wisconsin.

The Conservancy is a member-supported charitable organization and all gifts are tax-deductible. To learn more or to make a contribution, please contact us at 715-779-5263 or brc@brcland.org

News and Updates



Dennis McCann

Welcome Dennis McCann

We are pleased to welcome Dennis McCann as a new member of the BRC's Board of Directors. Dennis is a native Wisconsinite with more than 30 years of experience as a writer for the *Milwaukee Journal* and the *Journal Sentinel*. He has traveled extensively over our state and brings a passion for conservation and land

preservation to the board. He retired from the *Journal Sentinel* in 2007 and now he and his wife, Barb, reside in Bayfield. They have been enjoying Lake Superior Country for more than 20 years and know the importance of good land stewardship needed in order to preserve its wonder in the generations to come. ●

Welcome Dean Rau

One of our newest members of the BRC's Board of Directors is Dean Rau, of Bayfield. Dean began visiting the area in the early 1990's and moved here permanently two years ago. An orthopaedic surgeon working in Ashland, and an enthusiast of boats, he brings a wealth of interest in land preservation to the board. We are very pleased to welcome him! ●

Introducing Hannah Hudson

BRC is pleased to report that Hannah Hudson has joined our staff as part-time office manager, effective March 9.

Hannah's duties will include office operations, maintaining state and federal non-profit status, maintaining land and resource records, fielding routine correspondence, bookkeeping, overseeing technology and performing web site updates and providing other administrative support to the executive director and board of directors.



Hannah Hudson

Hannah also operates a photography business, Stonehouse Photography (www.stonehousephoto.com), does pro-bono and professional website design, and will be working on her MBA in addition to working for BRC.

Ellen Kwiatkowski, BRC executive director, said Hannah's business skills and varied experience make her "exactly what we need right now" as the organization moves forward.

"It's a cause I very much believe in," Hannah said. ●

Recent and Upcoming Events

- **Solstice Hike, December 20, 2008**

Twenty souls braved the snowstorm for the BRC/BAASA Solstice Hike on the Brownstone Trail. It was a lovely candle-lit hike and Joe Groshek set up a special candle memorial to Mark Musolf, where the group paused to send warm thoughts Jocelyn's way. The hikers returned to the Bayfield Inn for camaraderie and refreshments (cookies and hot chocolate). It was a very nice evening.

- **Volunteer Hikes, November 2 and 21, 2008**

Lynda Nedden-Durst led two hikes to the Lost Creek Falls in Cornucopia as a special thank you for our volunteers. The first was attended by around 15 hikers. We met at Siskiwit Bay Coffee and Curiosities for warm drinks, sweets and more conversation after the hike. The second hike was a little chillier and drew only three hikers. It was also a great hike and we went to the Village Inn for lunch to warm up! We will be offering another special event for volunteers again this fall.

- **Pancake Breakfast**

The 5th Annual BRC Maple Syrup Pancake Breakfast will be held from 8-11 a.m. on Saturday, April 4 at the Mount Ashwabay Ski Chalet. We do our best to use local producers, serving local berries, meat and juice. We always welcome volunteers for this event and, of course, pancake eaters! Cost is \$7.00/adult, \$5.00/child 10 and under, or \$20/family.

- **Lasagna Dinner**

BRC will be hosting a lasagna dinner in conjunction with the Sea Kayak Symposium on Friday, June 19 at the Washburn Elementary School. The dinner will run from 5:30-7 p.m. Cost is \$10/adult, \$5/child (10 and under) or \$25/family. We will need volunteers to prepare lasagnas as well as other preparation and serving at the event.

- **Bayfield BioBlitz on the Big Ravine**

BRC will help to sponsor the Second Annual BioBlitz on June 26-27. A BioBlitz is a 24-hour period of time spent identifying and learning about the species in a specific location. The main purpose is education with the additional benefit of creating a species list. A schedule of events will be listed on our website closer to the event. To help out, contact Doug Lowthian at 779-3029 or dlowthian@centurytel.net.

- *To volunteer to help with events or for more information, call Lynda at 779-5263 or e-mail lynda@brcland.org.*

News and Updates

Houghton Falls Update

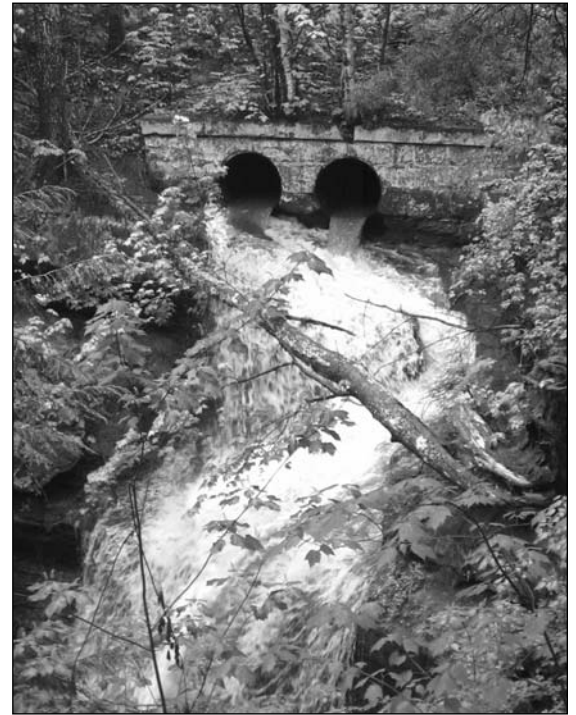
As we reported in our last newsletter, the Conservancy has been working with the Town of Bayview and the Trust for Public Land to locate funding and reach agreements with landowners to purchase approximately 77 acres near Houghton Falls on Lake Superior.

Together, we hope to acquire both sides of the main waterfall as well as the Echo Dells upstream, where a series of water-carved rock cliffs and caves are interspersed with small waterfalls and a forested footpath. The stream meanders through the rare boreal forest of hemlock, cedar, spruce, tamarack, birch and maple, cascading over the exposed sandstone before it descends over 60 feet into a rippled sandy cove. The proposed acquisition area at Houghton Falls Nature Preserve includes more than 2,230 feet of Lake Superior coastline and 2,305 feet of stream.

Last summer we submitted the project for federal funding but did not rank high enough, nationally, in order to qualify for funding. We have subsequently regrouped, solicited feedback from the federal funders on how to strengthen our proposal and are resubmitting the project. If funded, we will continue working with the Department of Natural Resources on an application for a grant from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund.

The Town of Bayview also created an ad hoc committee that has drafted a management plan to provide for the public's quiet enjoyment

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Spring runoff at Houghton Falls

Brunswieler Receives Wild River Designation

On February 26, the Wisconsin State Legislature voted in favor of designating the Brunswieler River as a State Wild River in honor of conservationist Martin Hanson.

For much of its length the Brunswieler is an outstanding resource water that flows through wetlands, lakes, forestland, and the Penokee Mountains before it joins the Marengo River on the Bad River Reservation. Many of our organization's members enjoy kayaking, hiking and bird watching along the rivers granite cliffs through hemlock, white pine and upland cedar forest. The forests of this area provide significant habitat for interior forest dwelling birds that, due to significant habitat loss throughout their range, are declining in numbers. These include species such as the black throated blue warbler, winter wren, pileated woodpecker, oven bird, and hermit thrush, among others.

Due to its conservation significance, the Bayfield Regional Conservancy is actively working to protect land along the Brunswieler River and currently holds a conservation easement on 85 acres of property situated along its course. The easement prevents subdivision, development and clearing and ensures an intact shoreline

along the river.

The conservation easement was donated to the Conservancy in the Spring of 2008 by Martin Hanson. Dubbed "Camelot North" by Martin's colleagues, the property was a northern retreat for Democratic policy makers for decades and many a seed of Wisconsin's significant conservation initiatives were germinated there with the help of Senator Gaylord Nelson, Rep. Dave Obey and others. A large stretch of the Brunswieler River, including Beaverdam Lake, flows through the property and Martin managed the land to restore and provide habitat.

The 10-mile designated segment of the Brunswieler River in Ashland County, within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, becomes the fourth wild river to be given protected status. Rep. Gary Sherman, D-Port Wing, and Sen. Bob Jauch, D-Poplar, wrote the legislation.

"The purpose of this legislation is to preserve the Brunswieler River in its free-flowing condition and to protect it from building and expansion so that it can be sustained for many years into the future," said Sherman. ●

Introducing Ellen Kwiatkowski

When Ellen Kwiatkowski left James Madison University in 1988 with a degree in biology and a minor in biochemistry, her father urged her to come to work at DuPont, the huge corporation for which he had long worked. Her training would make her a natural fit, he told her, but Ellen had other interests. She had decided during college that she would very much like to eventually work for The Nature Conservancy, having concluded that “they were on the cutting edge” of land preservation.

“Quietly preserving nature,” she said, “is what appealed to me.”

Instead of signing on with corporate America, then, Ellen joined the United States Peace Corps and spent nearly three years in Paraguay before moving to Washington D.C. to realize her dream of working on international programs for The Nature Conservancy’s Latin America and Caribbean Division. Later she would work as director of conservation programs for The Nature Conservancy’s Delaware Chapter before eventually finding her way to Bayfield, where she and husband Eric Carlson run the popular Blue Vista Farm.

Twenty years later, what might be called DuPont’s loss is the Bayfield Regional Conservancy’s gain. In December Ellen was named executive director of the BRC, succeeding the organization’s first director, Ruth Oppedahl, who had moved on to a position with the UW-Extension. Once again Ellen’s training made her a natural fit for the position. She had previously served as a BRC board member, and at the time of her appointment had been developing a strategic conservation plan for BRC that covers Bayfield County. On just her third day as executive director Ellen walked through snowy woods with a landowner, marveling again at the mature hemlocks that always had seemed “like big tall wizards of the forest,” and concluded she was once again doing the work she had long valued as her best and highest use.

“As many of you know,” she told BRC board members in a note that day, “conservation is in my blood and I am thrilled to be doing that which I truly enjoy and feel I was made to do.”

The appointment of a new executive director is just part of the change being visited upon BRC as 2009 unfolds. In January, BRC moved into new street-front offices that will provide a more professional working space (that is to say, no more stepping over bales of sails to get to the BRC office) and, by virtue of its location within a stone’s throw of the ferry dock, make the organization more visible to the thousands of visitors who

come to Bayfield and the Apostle Islands each year. Still, for all that has changed, Ellen promises the direction of BRC will not vary from the course set by the board in its strategic plan and organizational vision—not surprising in that she was involved in developing the plan.

That is not to say she doesn’t have a few goals already. She would like to start working more proactively to inform landowners about options for preserving important parcels of agricultural or natural land, and to engage in more strategic planning to identify priority areas that should be targeted for outreach and conservation programs in Sawyer, Ashland and Douglas counties. In addition she sees a need for better communicating with landowners and donors the real cost of managing land and monitoring conservation easements, which could lead to larger conservation endowments to cover stewardship costs.

“I think that we can (also) be better at communicating how people can donate different types of contributions, such as through planned giving,” she said.

Despite the sour state of the economy over the past year, BRC is in relatively good shape financially, she said. The majority of BRC funding comes from memberships, she said, which so far are on a par with past years.

“I think people see value to donating locally,” she said.

BRC is planning events in Madison and the Twin Cities in 2009 and 2010, respectively to reach out to residents of those communities who also own land or have other connections to the region in an effort to increase membership. If they view the Bayfield peninsula as a special place that deserves to be preserved they may be persuaded to join BRC’s conservation efforts, she said.

One of her other top priorities is to move the organization towards accreditation through the Land Trust Alliance, which would certify that the organization adheres to the LTA’s Land Trust Standards and Practices. It is increasingly important for both landowners and land trusts, she said, because “it serves as an indicator of credibility and ensures that a land trust is employing best practices in securing lasting conservation.”

The effort to obtain funding and purchase agreements with property owners at Houghton Falls on Lake Superior will continue in 2009. The Conservancy has been working with the Town of Bayview and the Trust for Public Land on the effort to preserve 77 acres at the historic site, and while the project did not make the cut for funding in 2008 the grant request will be renewed this year.

One other change resulting from taking over the

In Memoriam

BRC Loses Three Outstanding Supporters

By Dennis McCann

It is with sadness, but with heartfelt appreciation as well, that we report the passing of three strong supporters of BRC and its conservation efforts.

One of those deaths hit especially close to home.

Mark Musolf, a Bayfield city councilor who was elected to the BRC board of directors in October, was killed Dec. 17 in a Price County automobile accident that also left his wife, Jocelyn Jacobs, with multiple fractured bones and other injuries.

Mark, 67, was remembered in one newspaper story as “a calming, quiet and influential presence at the highest levels of state government for 30 years.” In his long career he served as the state’s revenue secretary, as deputy attorney general and as a tax appeals commissioner before retiring with his wife to Bayfield. Here they remodeled a historic home and opened it as Wachsmuth House Bed and Breakfast.

Mark will also be remembered as a strong advocate for conservation of wild and natural spaces. He and Jocelyn were long active on behalf of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. Mark once served as chairman of the Wisconsin chapter and later as an active trustee.

Even before joining the board of BRC Mark was a loyal volunteer. He was also an avid fan of University of Wisconsin football. While a student at UW, where he earned undergraduate and law degrees, he was a member of the marching band, and a member of the Rittenhouse Singers. A longtime runner, Mark’s rare vanity was to put his total running miles on his license plate.

Jocelyn spent several weeks at a Rochester, Minn., hospital following the crash before moving to a friend’s home for what was expected to be lengthy rehabilitation. She expects to return to Bayfield by summer and to reopen Wachsmuth House in 2010.

Martin Hanson’s death in late October brought an end to the life of a man known for his puckish wit, a lifetime of political activism and enormous dedication to conservation and the environment. But if his death quieted the first and ended the second, his contributions to conservation will carry on long into the future.

Hanson and his brother, Louis, were long involved in Democratic politics, often hosting party leaders and other movers and shakers at Martin’s homestead near Mellen, a place his friends long called “Camelot North.” The property was “all brush” when it was acquired by his family in the 1920s, Hanson said shortly before his death, but through the years the land was restored and became a



Martin Hanson

refuge for black bears, timber wolves, deer, otters, beaver, bobcat and many other wild critters. One of Martin’s passions was filming wildlife in action.

In 1969, Hanson donated more than 1,200 acres of his land to the University of Wisconsin, which in turn handed the property over to the US Forest Service. He was deeply involved in creation of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (he guided President John Kennedy on a tour of the islands in 1963) and the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. The Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center dedicated its theater in honor of Martin for his help in establishing both the center and the Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge.

And, most recently, Martin moved to preserve Camelot North when he arranged to have his homestead, guest cabin and 85 acres of land permanently protected for wildlife under a land preservation agreement with Bayfield Regional Conservancy.

For all of those activities, but especially for his work on behalf of the national lakeshore and the St. Croix riverway, Hanson is to be inducted in April into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. It was also announced that the lakeshore would continue to benefit through the new Martin Hanson Conservation Endowment Fund, established in his name thanks to an anonymous donation.

As Rep. David Obey said of Hanson early in 2008, “To me, he will always be Wisconsin’s ‘First Citizen of the Land.’”

You have to like a man who was remembered in his own obituary as “at times a curmudgeon,” but **Jon Carlstrom**—sailor, family man, world traveler and long-distance motorcyclist—was much more, as well.

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BRC Business Member Profile

Brickyard Creek

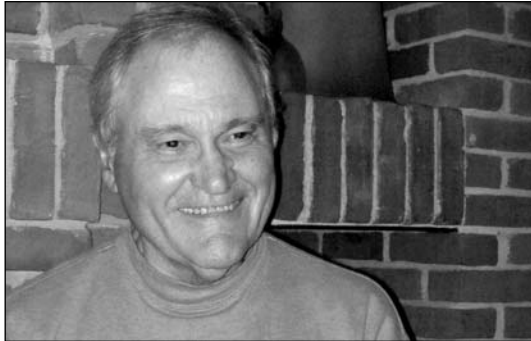
By Dennis McCann

Bob Davidson, the principal manager behind Brickyard Creek, laughs at the suggestion the “forest cabin community founded on active stewardship” just might give developers a good name.

That, he said, citing over-developed tourist destinations like Door County, the Wisconsin Dells and even the North Shore, would be asking a lot.

Still, Davidson makes clear his pride in the development of some 70 cottages in a wooded setting two miles north of Bayfield for the manner in which it settles into the landscape with minimal intrusion. While providing cottage owners with a true North Woods experience, the community also works to preserve native plants and trees and disturb the native environment as little as possible.

Brickyard Creek has developed an extensive labyrinth of walking trails, has brought in students from Northland College’s Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute to work with plants and lead “learning walks” and otherwise strives to make Brickyard Creek the “low-impact cottage



Bob Davison



neighborhood” Davidson and partner David Culberson, who met in the Caribbean while working on an eco-tour resort, had envisioned. Writing in the Boreal Forest Citizen, the community’s newsletter, Culberson noted the lake, the woods, wildflowers and hiking trails and told owners, “You were all attracted to something

here, and it wasn’t just our good looks.”

Davidson said what he is most proud of is that so many cottage owners have bought into the concept as well. “If you can be a developer and make money and also be proud of what you are doing,” he said, “you’re doing a pretty good thing.

“There has to be, and there will be, development but it can be in the right place...and fit in.”

Brickyard Creek’s reasons for supporting the preservation efforts of the Bayfield Regional Conservancy are just as obvious as it would seem, Davidson said.

“We can only do a little part in our community, but BRC has the potential to do (preservation) on a much larger basis.” ●

Houghton Falls (continued from page 4)

of the property while protecting the natural beauty of this historic site. Human use of the site dates back as early as the Copper Age civilization 6,000 years ago and the area and the earliest records from the Wisconsin Historical Society state that the Ottawa built a fort at Houghton Point across from La Pointe (a fur-trading site on Madeline Island that existed for over three hundred years). Later, around 1659, Médard Chouart des Groseilliers and Pierre Esprit Radisson, the first Europeans to reach the Great Lakes, may have built a small fort at Houghton Point and stayed one winter during their second voyage exploring western Lake Superior and the inland lakes and rivers, and setting up fur trade routes. The pair later founded the Hudson’s Bay Company. Houghton Point was also a destination for people who rode the train to the Houghton Stop and then caught the excursion boat out to Long Island.

Over the last 100 years, due to the generosity of private landowners, many people have enjoyed the rock ledges, explored the waterfalls and dells, or enjoyed the pine-needle trail along the ravine. Our goal is for the Town of Bayview to hold title to the land open to the public for quiet enjoyment of this beautiful natural area. ●

Using the Conservation Tax Incentive

If you own land with important natural resources, donating a voluntary conservation easement can be one of the smartest ways to conserve land you love, while maintaining your private property rights and realizing significant federal tax benefits.

Easements donated to the Bayfield Regional Conservancy by December 31, 2009 qualify for a tax deduction of 30 to 50 percent of the donor’s income, and extends the carry-forward period from 5 to 15 years. Contact the BRC for more information on the tax benefits of donating a conservation easement.

BRC Nature Notes

Mystery of the Egg Poacher

By *Ellen Kwiatkowski*

I love when nature reminds me to respect the intelligence of other creatures and while I always knew ravens were smart, it was another thing to actually experience their intelligence and interact with them. My husband and I own an orchard and we enjoy observing the other creatures with which we share the land and over the years ravens frequently fly over or perch in the pine grove below our fruit plantings.

One spring, after my chickens had once again resumed their egg laying en masse, there were days when I would find their nests completely empty. I could hear them laying, yet day after day the nests would be empty (roughly six eggs per day)—how could it be that some days there were none? I suspected a four legged predator, yet could find no tracks and besides, wouldn't any predator interested in the eggs certainly go after the chickens too? Then we started finding chicken eggs stashed all over our fields—up in the apple orchard, underneath foliage in the flower gardens, in our new berry plantings, etc. We were left scratching our heads until one day, my father-in-law, Keith, observed a huge raven flying the coop, so to speak. As it landed just outside the adjacent pen, Keith noticed it adjusting the load it was carrying in its beak: a large fresh egg! As luck would have it, Keith had his camera on him and snapped a photo of the raven just as it was taking off with its spoils in its mouth. Evidence.

And that's when the fun began. We started to observe when the raven came and saw that the hens' characteristic loud cackle (indicating it had laid an egg) had become the raven's dinner bell. Unless, of course, we were close by.

Ellen Kwiatkowski (continued from page 5) —

directorship of BRC will be that Ellen will be less involved in the growing and marketing of the seasonal bounty of Blue Vista Farm, which it should be noted is one of the farms preserved through the Farmland Preservation Program administered by the BRC.

But that's OK with her. While she said she enjoyed the physical labor of farming she missed being involved in the kind of work that had drawn her to The Nature Conservancy and, now, to BRC. She missed, as she put it, "doing what fulfills me. This is what I love to do. I've always worked for the cause." ●

My husband, Eric, also began to notice the raven heading towards the coop whenever he was on his tractor as the bird knew he was distracted and the coop likely unattended. One time he got off his tractor, left it running to fool the raven and circled back behind the chicken coop to surprise it.

In an effort to save some eggs for our breakfasts, we started to close the chickens little exit doorway until we had collected the eggs and once collected, we would leave one egg on the roof as a gift to the raven who was likely rearing a brood. One morning I forgot to leave the rooftop gift and as I was working in the adjacent flower field, I heard a loud squawk. When I looked up, the Raven was sitting on the roof of the coop glaring at me, as if to say, "Hey, lady, where's my egg?!" It was so comical—and yet, so typical of ravens that are so smart, they get other creatures to do the work for them. Ravens like to feed on carrion but cannot tear through animal hide with their beaks. In the wild, they have been known to make calls that bring wolves and foxes to dead animals so that these large carnivores can break the carcass apart, making meat accessible to the birds.

Later one gorgeous summer day, I was out behind the barn and heard a raven calling and looking up, I saw two adults and two juveniles soaring and circling overhead. I couldn't help but anthropomorphize the adult ravens' action to mean "Look, here are my young. See how healthy and strong they are. Thanks for the eggs!" ●

—*Eric Carlson and Ellen Kwiatkowski own Blue Vista Farm which was protected through the Town of Bayfield's Farmland Preservation Program. BRC administers the easement on their property.*

❖ WISH LIST ❖

- ❖ Power Point Projector
- ❖ new Canon Powershot digital camera
- ❖ color laser printer
- ❖ high-quality document scanner/copier
- ❖ artistic volunteer to assemble our scrap book (clippings provided!)
- ❖ poetry submissions—our newsletter already shares the creative writing of our members through articles, but we are looking for the hidden poet in our members. Please send your poetry submissions to Lynda@brcland.org for us to share in upcoming newsletters.

Thank you to our members who have given special gifts recently in honor and memory of others:

In Honor

- Gene Lemmenes gave a gift in honor of Ruth Oppedahl, to support current BRC projects

In Memory

- Jon Carlstrom, given by Annette & Victor Sandler, Jane & Jim Moeller, Maureen & Bill Bailey, friends of Jane Carlstrom from the Department of Speech & Language-Hearing Sciences, and memorials from his funeral
- Mark Musolf, given by Dennis & Barb McCann, Betty & Bill Parsons, Beverly Jensch, Gene Lemmenes (for the endowment fund)
- Beverly May, given by Tim & Cindy May
- Martin Hanson, given by Gene Lemmenes for the reserve fund
- Jerry Jolly, given by his daughter Jacqueline Kelley

In Memoriam (continued from page 6)

Jon, a strong supporter of BRC and our revolving fund for land acquisition, died unexpectedly at his Bayfield home in November at age 67. His wife, Hope Cook, children Ian and Elspeth Carlstrom and other relatives survive him.

Jon was born and raised in Mankato, Minn., where he and his brother, Lee, built their father's construction business, Robert W. Carlstrom Co., into one of southern Minnesota's largest construction firms. After Jon retired from the company in 2004 he spent much of his time sailing and traveling by motorcycle; he spent weeks driving through New Zealand and South America, which was not travel for the faint of heart.

"In South America," he said later in his company's newsletter, "you don't worry about deer running out on you. You worry about llamas and emus, but mostly you worry about the wind...At one point it blew me across two lanes and into the ditch at the opposite side of the road."

In addition to his support for BRC, Jon was a supporter of the Boy Scouts of America. An avid downhill skier, he also donated a chair lift to Mt. Ashwabay ski hill, a gift sure to be appreciated by all who are carried up hill on it.

BRC is a stronger organization thanks to the efforts of Mark, Martin and Jon. All will be missed. ●

Membership is a Great Gift

Treat yourself, or somebody you care about, to the gift of a membership in the Bayfield Regional Conservancy. It's good for the land, good for business, and good for the soul! Plus, you'll enjoy the many member benefits described below. Please call BRC at 715-779-LAND (5263) to learn more about membership, gift-giving, or volunteer opportunities.

MEMBER BENEFITS

\$1-\$249

- Annual Recognition in our Newsletter
- Recognition in our Annual Report
- Invitations to Field Trips and Special Events
- Invitation to Annual Meeting
- E-News Updates
- Volunteer Opportunities

\$250-\$499

- Above Benefits and:
- Special Outings on Protected Sites

\$500+

- Above Benefits and:
- Two Tickets to our Bi-Annual Major Donor Appreciation Gathering

BUSINESS MEMBER BENEFITS

\$50-\$99

- Window Decal
- Annual Recognition in our Newsletter
- Recognition in our Annual Report
- Invitations to Field Trips and Special Events
- Invitation to Annual Meeting
- E-News Updates

\$100-\$249

- Above Benefits and:
- Recognition in Each Newsletter
- Listing on our Web-Site

\$250-\$499

- Above Benefits and:
- Link from our Web-site
- Qualify for Business Member Profile in Newsletter

\$500+

- Above Benefits and:
- Two Tickets to our Bi-Annual Major Donor Appreciation Gathering



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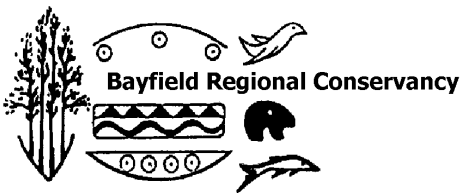
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Spring 2009

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More Membership Survey Highlights

Thanks to everybody who took time to take the BRC member survey. In the last issue, we shared some of your responses. Here are a few more:

• **Special places you would like to see protected:** Lake Superior Shoreline, Houghton Falls, Bark Bay Slough, Pike's Creek Watershed, Lost Creek Area, Madeline Island, Continue Brownstone Trail, Orchards, Fruit land and Farms, Soix River Watershed, White River, Southern Drummond Area, undeveloped land in Herbster and Port Wing, Cranberry River Area, Trail up from Washburn, Lake Namakagon Watershed, Raspberry River Watershed...

• **Words you'd use to describe BRC:** Focused, local, vital, values, honest, active, hope, environment, small, preservation, professional, grassroots, dedicated, worthwhile, effective, diligent, conservation, protect, caring, natural, progressive, necessary, future, informative, love, saving, encouraging, community, useful, efficacious, forward-thinking, efficient, heritage, collaborative, conserving, preserving, basic, foresight, committed, quiet, volunteer, land, respect, essential, active, visionary, proactive, enthusiastic, careful, sustainability, sharing, hometown, concerned, great, competent, lakes, intelligent, serious...