

*helping landowners
preserve northwest
Wisconsin's land legacy*

Volume 6, Summer 2006

Celebrating our ten-year anniversary: 1996-2006

Ten years ago, Madeline Hart, Connie Burditt, Cherie Routhier, and Bill Ferraro signed the incorporation papers that established the Bayfield Regional Conservancy. As Bill Ferraro explains it, "We started with the Brownstone Trail, but we needed an entity which could hold the trail, accept land, and negotiate easements."

The group, which soon included Shannon Swanstrom, met in members' homes and budgeted "basically out of the check-book," as Shannon puts it. She describes an early mailing to invite local citizens to join the BRC: "We all sat in a circle and stuffed envelopes and licked stamps."

Soon the Trail was launched with a bottle of champagne and a lunch provided by the Rittenhouse Inn. Today, with Bill Bussey's help with the legal matters involved, 23 landowners have granted easements to secure the Brownstone Trail.

The backgrounds and concerns that these founders brought to the initial activities of the BRC gave it direction in a variety of ways. Madeline Hart mentions "the fear of what was going to happen to this beautiful land." Cherie Routhier brought to the early efforts her experience with the Little Traverse Conservancy in northern Lower Michigan, where she lived before coming to the Bayfield area.

All organizations born of the vision and dedication of their founders eventually mature and change. A major step in the development of BRC was the addition of staff in 2000. Soon the Town of Bayfield Farmland Preservation Program, which has permanently preserved four orchards (Betzold's Orchard, Blue Vista Farm, Highland Valley Farm, and Good Earth

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A 1997 article in The Daily Press announces one of the Bayfield Regional Conservancy's early success stories: the establishment of public access easements for the Brownstone Trail near Bayfield.



The Bayfield Regional Conservancy's decade of work in northwest Wisconsin has helped preserve natural beauty, recreational opportunity, and land-based economic enterprises. Left: Protected land along the White River. Middle: Hiking along the Brownstone Trail. Right: Picking cherries at Betzold's Orchard.

BRC News and Updates

BRC Adds Staff

Linda Webster joined the BRC as Membership Director in April. Linda holds a master's degree in public policy planning and has worked for more than 20 years as a program planner and grant manager. Linda purchased land in Bayfield 25 years ago, and in 2004 built a house here. Her experience writing and speaking are an asset to BRC and her volunteer community work with the Alliance for Sustainability and other worthy causes have made her a valuable community member. As membership director,



Linda will help grow our membership, write grants and coordinate events. We are delighted to have her as part of our team. Linda can be reached at membership@brcland.org or 715-779-LAND (5263).

Bike Tour to Benefit BRC

Do you know that the Bayfield Regional Conservancy was selected as one of the beneficiaries for the 2006 Superior Vistas Bike Tour? This event will raise funds this year for our conservation work in the Bayfield region. BRC appreciates the Bay Area Active Sports Alliance and the Ashland and Washburn Chambers of Commerce for organizing the tour and selecting the Conservancy as a recipient of this year's proceeds. Please join us for this fun event in Lake Superior country. Register at www.superiorvistas.org or call 1-800-284-9484.



Barn Dance Benefit

Blue Vista Farm will be kicking off berry season on July 15 with a barn dance to benefit the Bayfield Regional Conservancy. Come and shake your tail feathers from 6-10 p.m. to live music in the loft of Blue Vista's historic turn of the century barn. Food prepared by Bayfield's Blue Horizons Café will be available for purchase. The whole community is invited and donations will be accepted at the door. We look forward to shindigging with you at the hoe-down and hope to make this an annual event.



Event Calendar

June 16:

Lasagna dinner for Inland Sea Society's Sea Kayak Symposium (online at www.inlandsea.org)

June 24:

Superior Vista Bike Tour (online at www.superiorvistas.org)

July 15:

Barn Dance at Blue Vista Farm

August 3:

BRC's 10th Anniversary Celebration: Join us for dinner followed by a special edition of "Take it to the Lake" at the Big Top Chataqua.

September 30:

BRC Annual Meeting, cider pressing and hikes at the Big Ravine

Volunteers Needed!

Want to help BRC, meet interesting people, and put your labor and talents to use all at the same time? Then consider volunteering! If you can help with any of the following events, please call our office at 715-779-5263. We'd love your help!

- **June 16:** Preparing, serving, or cleaning up at Lasagna Dinner for sea kayakers at the Inland Sea Society's Sea Kayak Symposium
- **June 24:** Staffing a rest stop for bikers in the Superior Vista Bike Tour
- **July 15:** Decorating and set-up for the benefit barn dance at Blue Vista Farm; call Ellen Kwiatkowski at 779-3698.
- **September 30:** Making apple cider/leading hikes at the Big Ravine

Ten-year anniversary (continued from page 1)

Gardens) was in operation.

Bill Van Sant had moved to the Bayfield area from Pennsylvania where he had seen very active land trusts in operation; he worked with The Conservation Fund, a national advisory support organization, to inventory conservation initiatives in the Bayfield area. The Conservation Fund sponsored learning tours for a few citizens who studied the nationally renowned preservation program working on Michigan's cherry orchards.

One of BRC's first projects was to work with the Town of Bell to purchase eight acres of beach in Cornucopia for public access to Lake Superior. BRC also worked with the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund to purchase 35 acres at the top of the Big Ravine in Bayfield to protect the city from flooding, and to continue the trail system that ranges from the school to the soccer field to the top of the ravine with its beautiful overlooks.

Bill Ferraro, whose career had been with the National Park Service and who retired to become a fruit farmer in the Town of Bayfield, notes that in 2002 when farmland preservation became a program supported by BRC, a group journeyed to Madison in search of state funds. The representatives took with them a basket full of the jams, maple syrup, and other products of the area. When a state official asked Bill how much he wanted for it all, Bill jokingly told him a hundred thousand dollars. They didn't get the money, but the effort showed the determination of the pioneers.

In 2005, BRC acquired 27 acres on the White River in cooperation with the Trout Unlimited Wild Rivers Chapter and the Department of Natural Resources' River Protection Fund so that anglers had a place along the river to get out of their canoes and stretch or cook a shore breakfast. The most recent acquisition BRC helped foster was the acquisition of the Nourse Sugarbush State Natural Area by the Department of Natural Resources with funding from Rep. Dave Obey.

Major support for BRC's growth has come from Tim and Jenifer Horan who had faith that the organization would grow and become self-sustaining. Tim ardently supported the work on the Brownstone Trail and encouraged BRC to

partner with others such as the Living Forest Cooperative, the Bad River Watershed Association, and the Friends of the White River.

Aldo Leopold famously encouraged private landowners to become "stewards" of their land. Like land trusts across the country, the heart of BRC's work is to assist private landowners in drafting permanent preservation agreements (conservation easements) that will protect their land into the future. Entire wild lakes, river frontage, hemlock groves, and other significant wildlife and plant habitats have been protected this way. Regional community members including Liz Quast, Lorain Olsen, Gene and Ruth Goellner, Stuart and Gail Hanson, and Kathy Logan and Warren Kehn have been among those private landowners who have donated conservation easements.

The Bayfield Regional Conservancy has initiated some creative approaches to saving the natural beauty of this area. For this work, BRC received the first ever "Land Trust of the Year" for the state of Wisconsin in 2003. Our projects include important areas that will strengthen our local economy such as the Bayfield orchards and the acquisitions of land on Mt. Ashwababay as an outdoor recreation destination.

It's almost unbelievable what can be done with a group of dedicated members (over 400 households from 22 states), a committed board and enthusiastic volunteers. We believe growth can occur while at the same time preserving special natural areas for wildlife, plants, and all of us people who enjoy this beautiful landscape.

We look forward to many decades more of conservation work in the Bayfield region. As one founder, Cherie Routhier, said recently, "I'm just delighted that the work has gone on." |



Working with the Bayfield Regional Conservancy, in summer 2005 Ashland County residents Kathy Logan and Warren Kehn became the first private landowners along the White River to establish a permanent conservation easement on their riverfront land.

Welcome New Board Members

Steve Sandstrom: We welcome back to the board of directors Steve Sandstrom, who previously served from 2001-2003. Steve was instrumental in helping coordinate the Nourse Sugarbush acquisition over the past five years. Steve's background as an environmental educator and his network of sustainability initiatives are very valuable to the Conservancy. We are glad to have Steve back on board!

Pam Dryer: Pam's background as a wetland ecologist and experience with the Whittlesley Creek Wildlife Refuge bring a unique perspective to the board. Pam has been very active with the Living Forest Cooperative and she and her husband Mark are dedicated stewards of their own land on the Marengo River.

Phil Peterson: Phil has been an active volunteer with the Big Ravine Committee. He (and his tractor) have helped build boardwalks and clear trails in the Big Ravine. He is very familiar with the area in all seasons and has coordinated the apple pressing event last September. His good humor adds to our enjoyment of board meetings!

Edith Brevold: Edith's input and sense of history of the organization is invaluable. With her many volunteer activities in Bayfield and Cable, we are appreciative to have her lend advice for a second term on the board.

Conservation Buyer Needed!

For the first time, one of the properties for which the BRC holds a conservation easement is up for sale. The property is located on South Fish Creek in Bayfield County; 36 of the 56 acres are protected by a permanent preservation agreement (conservation easement) to protect the creek, a

lovely hemlock grove, and a sugar maple stand.

We want Bayfield Regional Conservancy members to know about this in order to help find a buyer who would appreciate this unique property and embrace the conservation values there. The parcel includes a lovely New England-style saltbox home and a tree-level screened porch that overlooks

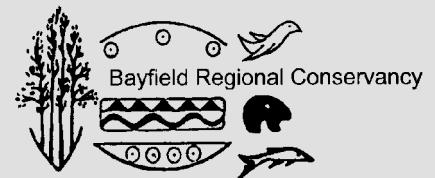


the protected property. BRC's stewardship of this easement involves annual visits to the land and seeing that the restrictions are upheld.

Call the BRC office (715-779-LAND) to learn more about the easement, and if you would like to know more about the property look online at www.upnorthfsbo.com/index.php.

Thanks to all BRC Board Members Past and Present

Janet Bewley	Karin Kozie
Edith Brevold	Larry MacDonald
Connie Burditt	Art Ode
Gary Connell	Phil Peterson
Mike Crowell	Jerry Phillips
Rex Dollinger	Spencer Robnik
Pam Dryer	Cherrie Routhier
Bill Ferraro	Kathleen Russell
Nan Fey	Steve Sandstrom
Tom Frizzell	Nancy Sandstrom
Madeline Hart	Roy Settgas
Tam Hofman	Shannon Swanstrom
Tim Horan	Bill Van Sant
Ernie Korpela	



Bayfield Regional Conservancy

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Email: brc@brcland.org
Website: www.brcland.org

BRC Staff:

Ruth Oppedahl, *Executive Director*
Linda Webster, *Membership Director*

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 the numbers above.

BRC Helps Protect Bayfield County's Ashwabay Ridge

For the past five years the Bayfield Regional Conservancy has been working to protect the Ashwabay Ridge, one of the highest points in the Bayfield Peninsula.

Last August, Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle stood at the top of Mt. Ashwabay where he saw Lake Superior and the Apostle Islands spread out below, and the Porcupine Mountains on the distant horizon across Chequamegon Bay. The Governor's visit underscored the significance of Mt. Ashwabay as one of the 200 Land Legacy sites in Wisconsin.

This high ridge on the Bayfield peninsula is both a pathway and breeding ground for neotropical migratory songbirds. On a spring morning you might hear the "zay zay zoo zee" song of the black-throated green warbler or the "teach, teach, teach" of the ovenbird—both species that prefer interior blocks of forest for their nests. The chance to manage a larger forested area, including old-growth hemlock-hardwood forest, led to a true community effort to acquire and protect lands along this ridge.

The initiative started with the purchase of the Apostle Islands Ski Corporation's 200 acres by the Ashwabay Outdoor Educational Foundation, with support from a federal grant acquired by Rep. Dave Obey. The Ski Corporation, along with landowner Mary Rice, were interested in seeing the local group succeed, and offered the land and facilities at a great price, and stuck with it as the Foundation and community launched a local fundraising effort.

The ski hill land includes the downhill operation whose future is now secure as a family ski center. The ski hill parcel includes acres of forested land that will contribute to wildlife habitat, and miles of nordic ski trails that go up and around Mt. Ashwabay. This parcel also includes the summer home of the Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua whose entertaining shows of historical slides and original songs about the region are renown.

In late 2005, the BRC helped coordinate the second transaction at the western end of the ridge. The 280-acre Nourse Sugarbush was acquired by the Foundation with the help of the State of Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources, the John C. Bock Foundation, and federal grant funds made available by Rep. Obey. As many community members know, the sugarbush has a long history from the native Ojibway sugaring there in the spring, to the Nourse family who ran a commercial maple syrup operation there for many decades. This old-growth maple and hemlock are one of the largest stands remaining in the state.

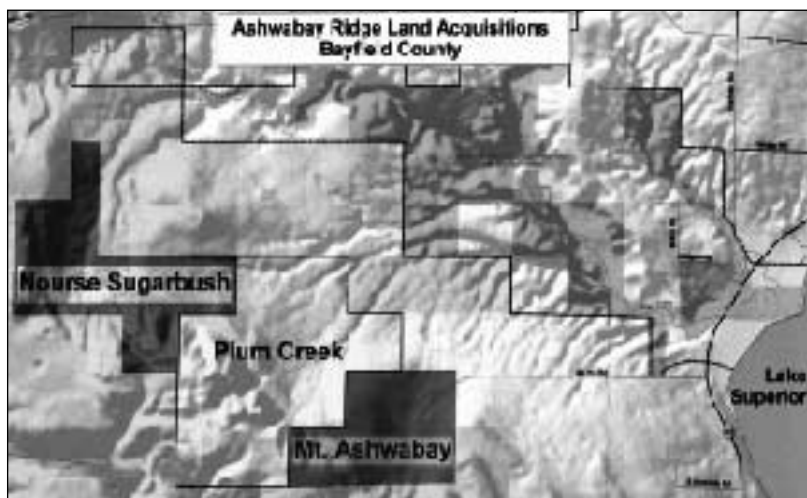
Finally, the BRC is partnering with the State of Wisconsin to encourage acquisition of 560 acres of land owned by the Plum Creek Corporation which lies between the two other parcels. The Plum Creek land has prime recreational value with its miles of trails that link the ski hill to the sugarbush. Also, with a donation by Jerry Jolly, some additional 70 acres have been added to adjacent county forest land that extends the trail system to Star Route Road. The Plum Creek land connects the ski hill to county land to state land. One of the Ashwabay Outdoor Educational Foundation's goals is to make this trail system a premier Midwest destination for nordic skiers.

Mt. Ashwabay is an important part of our local economy in the summer with the Chautauqua and in the winter with the Mt. Ashwabay Ski Center. The public recreation value of this site is tremendous with miles of summer and winter trails. And the best part of this is that a significant ecological area, one of the top 200 in the state, will be protected forever.

We hope you can help us celebrate this success at the Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua this August 3 with a special rendition of "Take it to the Lake" as we thank the many people who made this project possible. |



BRC board member Rex Dollinger stands next to one of the ancient maple trees now preserved as part of the Nourse Sugarbush State Natural Area.



BRC Business Memberships Available

Business owners! Have you or any of your customers taken a walk along the Brownstone Trail in Bayfield? Or perhaps you or your customers have enjoyed visiting the picturesque orchards above Bayfield. Do you realize that four of these orchards now have been permanently protected for farming long into the future through the Town of Bayfield's Farmland Preservation Program?

These examples highlight some of the ways that the Bayfield Regional Conservancy enhances the quality of life in our region and our ability to provide visitors with attractive opportunities to enjoy the land and the lake. And that's good for business!

We invite you to join the Bayfield Regional Conservancy as a business member. For an annual investment of \$100, \$250, \$500 or \$1000, you can join the team of businesses partnering with BRC (see sidebar at right). As a thank you, BRC will provide you with a BRC decal for you to display at your business. Contact BRC at (715) 779-5263 to discuss business membership opportunities.



Wish List

If you'd like to make a donation that would target a specific need, here's a great opportunity! Ever notice how land-use, property boundaries, geography, and other features of a landscape really jump out at you when you're up in the air looking down? Bayfield County has assembled an aerial photo database of the county which would be a valuable resource for the BRC as we assess lands and work with landowners throughout Bayfield County. A gift of \$400 would allow us to purchase this database. Contact us at 715-779-LAND (5263) to find out more about this opportunity.

2006 Business Members

6th Street Market
 Antique Garden Inn
 Apostle Island Realty
 Apple Grove Inn
 Art Ode, Horticultural Consultant
 Artesian House
 Bayfield Bike Route
 Bayfield Chamber of Commerce
 Bayfield Lumber and Supply
 Beaver Industries
 Blue Vista Farm
 Bodin's Inc.
 Brickyard Creek
 Bussey Law Office
 Dr. Daniel Skenderian
 Durfey Company
 Eckels Pottery & Fine Craft Gallery
 Good Earth Gardens
 Great Northern Solar
 Highland Valley Farm
 Living Adventure Inc
 Living Forest Cooperative
 Mains'l Services
 Mattson Properties
 Northern Migrations
 Old Rittenhouse Inn
 Pinehurst Inn
 Port Superior Marina Association
 Reed Realty
 Roxanne's Gifts
 Sailboats Inc.
 Seagull Bay Motel
 Stone's Throw Pottery & Gifts
 Upper Lakes Food, Inc.
 Woodnote Lodge
 Xcel Energy

Wear (or carry) your BRC support!



Show your support for the Bayfield Regional Conservancy through the purchase of a 100 percent cotton bucket hat, baseball-style cap, or tote bag featuring an embroidered BRC logo. Hats (\$15) are available in yam or denim blue; caps (\$15) are available in periwinkle, strawberry, or khaki with a blue or green bill. Tote bags (\$20) are natural with navy trim. BRC logos are embroidered in a number of lively colors.

To order, call 779-LAND (5263) or stop by the Bayfield Regional Conservancy office at 121 Manypenny Street in Bayfield (upstairs in the corner above Stone's Throw).

BRC Membership & Support

New and renewing members February 6–May 18, 2006:

Don & Lois Albrecht	Cliff Grand	Bill Meller
Karen Algire	David Greenberg & Tamara Bauers	Mike & Sara Mustonen
John & Mary Boyle Anderson	Joe & Sandy Groshek	Larry Myhra
Terri & David Bahe	Jerry & Cindy Halfen	Marie & Julian Nelson
Donald Baughman	Ursula Hambuch	Lois Osterberg
Troy & Corinne Berg	David & Iona Harju	Marv & Sandra Paavola
Karen & Bill Boyd	Joyce Henry	Mary & Jerry Phillips
Edith & Gene Brevold	Mrs. Bill Hepner	Bob Power
Dick & Barbara Brownlee	Miriam Hof	Bill Preiss
Bob Bruce	David & Barbara Houser	Jim & Ruth Radtke
Mike & Paula Bunch	Beverly Jensch	Mary Rehwald
Peggy & Rick Burkman	Wayne Jensen	Arthur & Charlotte Rimmereid
Dan Madison Chartier	Steven Josephson	Rebecca & Harold Roller
Janet Cismoski	Dave & Dianne Judd	John Scharding
Clyde Clauson	Sam Atkins & Eileen Kajiwara	Darrell & Joan Schierman
Tom & Connie Cogger	Theresa Kelly	Dave McCormick & Annie Schneider
Harland & Kay Craft	Denny Kilbane	James Slocum
Beta & Bill Damberg	Sandra & Howard Kylo	Beverly Steele
Richard Dillon	William LaJoie	Ragnhild Stockenstrom
Gerald & Margaret Doetkott	Steve & Stacey Lane	Paul Sturgul
Marcy & Larry Dorau	Jacki-Rae & Terry Ledin	John & Libby Telford
Gina Dundun	Laura & Earl Lima	Barbara Mary Tellier
Celia Duquette	Sharon & Craig Locey	Nicholas J. Tesser
Tim Edwards & Heidi Goehring	Warren Kehn & Kathy Logan	Matt Thill
Patricia Finch	Paul & Paula Lundberg	Thomas Trost
Yvette Fleming	Larry & Julie MacDonald	David & Karen Trudeau
Glenn & Celeste Forbes	Reid & Jeanne Mandel	Marilyn & Bill Van Sant
Michol Ann Ford	Mary Fulton & Ewart Martens	Jim & Tamara Voris
Joel & Kathy Furda	Dennis & Barb McCann	Carl J. Watras M.D.
Jude Genereaux	William & Mary McCarty	Wendy & Michael Wethington
Jean Mihelich Gerval	Mike & Helen McHale	Mary & Jack Wichita
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Good	Dave & Marie McKee	Georgia Wulff

Correction: *Kathy Logan and Warren Kehn were unintentionally omitted from the last newsletter's membership list. We apologize for the oversight.*

Gifts in honor & memory

In recognition of their stewardship of the Sioux River watershed, a contribution has been made in honor of Becky Brown and Kim Bro from Kathleen Russell of Apostle Islands Realty. Thank you!

Consider a planned gift to the Bayfield Regional Conservancy

A planned gift to the Bayfield Regional Conservancy is a great way to give something back to the Bayfield region and its people. You might be surprised to know that your generosity can benefit you and your family financially, too.

A planned gift can be as simple as including the Bayfield Regional Conservancy in your will or naming the Conservancy as a beneficiary of an insurance policy, retirement plan, or certificate of deposit. We hope you will consider leaving a legacy to BRC and your other favorite charities.

We invite you to take time today to learn more about planned gifts. Please call BRC at 715-779-LAND (5263) to learn more about planned giving opportunities.



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Bayfield Regional Conservancy
Wisconsin's first-ever Land Trust of the Year!

The latest news from...



Pancakes!

Devin Quast (at left) and Matt Quast enjoy pancakes at the Maple Syrup Pancake Breakfast April 1. The event celebrated the new

Nourse Sugarbush State Natural Area, which was recently acquired by the Ashwabay Outdoor Educational Foundation and conveyed to the State of Wisconsin as the newest State Natural Area (see story on page 5). The Sugarbush has remnants of old growth maple and hemlock trees and also hosts a network of nordic ski trails. The breakfast also raised \$1,238 for the Bayfield Regional Conservancy.

Almost 200 people enjoyed the smoked ham by 6th Street Market and homemade buttermilk pancakes with Highland Valley Farm Blueberries and Nourse Sugarbush Maple Syrup. Many thanks to other sponsors including Apple Grove Inn, Jerry and Carol Carlson, Danny and Marilyn Nourse, Upper Lakes Foods, and the Bayfield Chamber of Commerce.

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