

*helping landowners
preserve northwest
Wisconsin's land legacy*

Volume 8, Spring 2008

"Camelot North" Protected

By Ruth Oppedahl

Martin Hanson's northern homestead, guest cabin and 85 acres are now permanently protected for wildlife under a land preservation agreement with the Bayfield Regional Conservancy. Located west of Mellen in the Penokee Mountains and surrounded by Chequamegon National Forest, the land is a wildlife magnet for black bears, timber wolves, white-tailed deer, otters, fishers, pine martens, beaver, bobcat, sandhill cranes, goshawks and other northern animals.

Dubbed "Camelot North" by Martin's long-time colleagues dating from the time Martin guided President Kennedy through the Apostle Islands in 1963, this place has been a northern retreat for Democratic policy-makers for decades. Tall windows line his living room where visitors have close encounters with black bears scratching their back on pine trees, or hear a pair of cranes trumpeting their morning call down the hill at the sparkling pond.

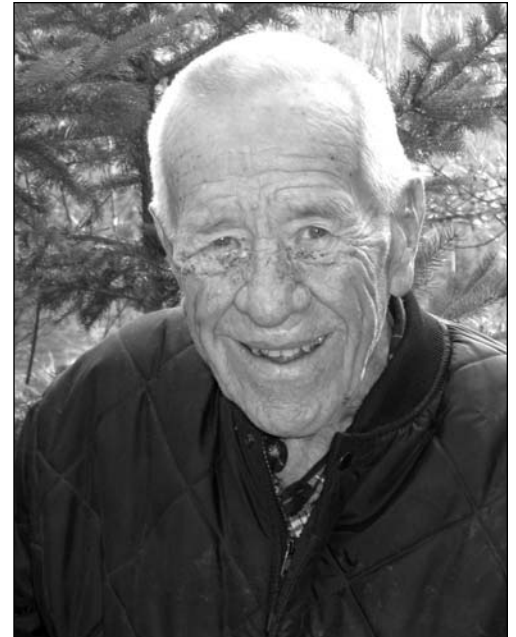
Over the decades, Camelot North hosted many conversations on significant conservation initiatives with Senator Gaylord Nelson, UW-Madison professor Harold "Bud" Jordahl Jr., Rep. Dave Obey and others on matters that ranged from Nelson's first Earth Day, the creation of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, the establishment of the St. Croix River as a National Scenic River, and other ideas that became part of the nation's and Wisconsin's conservation tradition.

In 1926 Martin's family bought 1240 acres that had been logged and burned. "It was all brush," Martin said of the cutover land. "I used to wander around in there—you couldn't get lost."

Since then, the land revegetated first to popple and then to sugar maple, red maple, paper birch, ironwood and eastern hemlock. Pockets of balsam fir and oak provide food and shelter for the wildlife attracted by several wildlife ponds Martin established. He now sees wood ducks, three species of mergansers, ring-necked ducks, cormorants and other migratory and breeding waterfowl using the ponds. Grassy openings and food plots make this site a draw for wildlife in heart of the national forest.

In 1969 Martin donated more than 1,200 acres of his land to the University of Wisconsin, which subsequently transferred the property to the United States Forest Service. The North Country Trail crosses that land, and a large stretch of the Brunsweler River, including Beaverdam Lake, flows through it. Martin's latest project is to advocate for the Wisconsin Wild and Scenic River status for the Brunsweler River, whose wilderness character stretches for about nine and a half miles through the national forest.

A lifelong conservationist, Martin has filmed thousands and thousands of hours of footage of wildlife in action. He researches the natural history of



Martin Hanson



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BRC News and Updates

Events Calendar: Recent and Upcoming Events

February 1: Candle Light Hike on the Brownstone Trail

Around 30 hikers enjoyed the evening by candlelight along the Brownstone Trail. The weather was just right for a night walk and the trail provided a good workout for the hikers who trudged their way through the snow to follow the peaceful, lighted trail. Thank you to Joe Groshek and Mark and Shari Eggleston for all their hard work in setting out and picking up the candles. Many of the hikers found a warm, welcome snack and drink waiting at Burt & Francies after the hike. There's nothing like the taste of hot chocolate on a beautiful winter evening!

February 10: Thank You at Mount Ashwabay

Fifteen hardy souls braved the bitter cold temperatures on February 10 to celebrate the addition of the last 160 acres to Mount Ashwabay. The DNR presented us with our final check and there was lots of socializing despite the fact that no one took the opportunity to ski for free! Thank you to everyone who helped make the protection of Mount Ashwabay possible, and especially to Shari Eggleston for being an excellent hostess for the occasion!



April 5: Maple Syrup and Pancake Breakfast

Our annual Maple Syrup and Pancake Breakfast will be on Saturday, April 5, from 8:00–10:30 a.m. at the ski chalet at Mount Ashwabay. Menu includes homemade buttermilk pancakes, local maple syrup and blueberries, local breakfast meats, Bayfield apple cider and coffee.

Suggested donation: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 10 and under or \$25 for a family. There will also be a guided hike out to the sugarbush. Hope to see you there!



June 28: Wine Tasting at Blue Vista Farm

Please join us for this special fund raising event at Blue Vista Farm from 4:00–6:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 28. The cost is \$25 per person to include Wine and Hors d'oeuvres, prepared by local catering businesses. Blue Vista is located on the corner of Hwy J and Hatchery Road in the orchard and farmland of Bayfield.

June 21: Bayfield BioBlitz

A BioBlitz is an inventory of the flora and fauna of a selected natural area within a 24-hour period of time. Volunteer groups led by specialists will be gathering data on the living organisms of the Big Ravine of Bayfield, providing an opportunity for local community members to learn about the Big Ravine and the plants and animals that live there. A BioBlitz is about the sharing of the wonder of the natural world by introducing individuals to the diversity found within a community of plants and animals. If you are interested in participating and would like more information, please contact Doug Lowthian at 779-3029.

Grants from Community Foundations Boost BRC's Capacity

Thank you to the Apostle Islands Community Fund and the Duluth-Superior Area Community Foundation for providing grants to increase our land trust's capacity. The grants are directed towards expanding our membership base. Lynda Nedden-Durst, our membership coordinator, now has almost twice as much time to devote to growing our membership, carrying out a member survey and other fundraising activities.

All last year, we carried a waiting list of landowners who wanted to protect their land with permanent land preservation easements. Most of our budget is supported through member donations. So as more members join, we can work with more landowners to explore their conservation options for protecting their land. We look forward to protecting more properties in 2008 thanks to the Apostle Islands Area Community Fund of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation, the Barnum Fund and the Unrestricted Endowment Fund of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation. ●



BRC Director Ruth Oppedahl, right, accepts a grant check from the Apostle Islands Community Fund's Nancy Sandstrom.

Needed

- **Funds** for a high quality scanner/copier
- **Volunteer** to assemble our scrap book—clippings provided!

If you can help with any of these items, call the Bayfield Regional Conservancy at 715-779-5263.



"Camelot North" (Continued from page 1)

each animal species and adds his own observations which come from years of patient wildlife viewing. He writes and narrates his wildlife films that focus mostly on northern mammals including extensive video of bobcats and their young, black bears, beavers at home in their ponds, sandhill cranes, herons and wolves. He has even filmed a white-tailed deer buck dropping an antler.

In 2003, the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center dedicated its state-of-the-art theater after him in honor of Martin's help in establishing the Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge and the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, and his many other achievements.

In 2004, Martin received a national award from the National Parks and Conservation association for his lifelong efforts on behalf of Apostle Islands and other Great Lakes parks.

After a lifetime of studying wildlife, advocating for protection of our wild rivers, the Apostle Islands, Hudson Bay polar bears and more, Martin turned homeward toward protecting the place that has provided so much for the wildlife and human visitors by placing a permanent land preservation agreement on Camelot North.

Rep. Dave Obey had this to say about Martin: "Martin loves the land and the environment that sustains us and enriches the spirit. To me, he will always be Wisconsin's "First Citizen of the Land." ●

BRC Community Outreach Planned

We would like to start offering presentations to groups about our organization. To accomplish this, we would like to start a group of volunteers willing to visit different areas and share short presentations about BRC. Please contact the office at 715-779-5263 or email brc@brcland.org if you are interested in learning more.

If you are part of a group or organization interested in hearing more about Bayfield Regional Conservancy, please contact us as well. Programs can include a basic overview of BRC to explanations about land preservation easements and other conservatin options for individual landowners. ●



Bayfield Regional Conservancy

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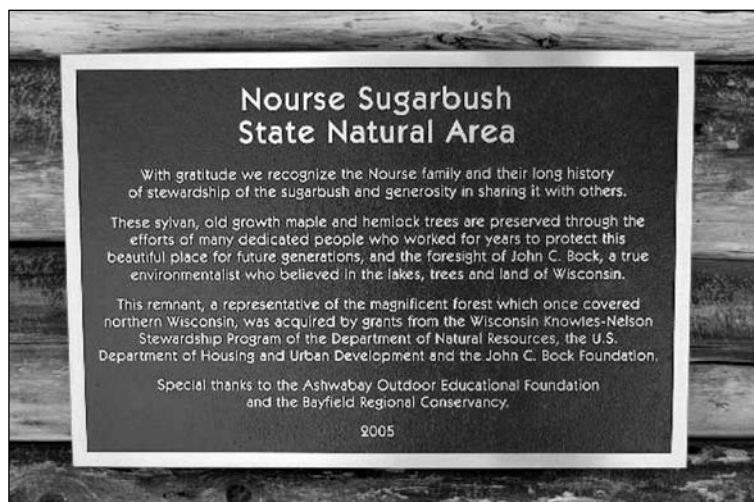
BRC Staff:

Ruth Oppedahl
Executive Director
Lynda Nedden-Durst
Membership Director
Bill Bussey
Legal Counsel

Board of Directors:

Ellen Kwiatkowski, *President*
Karen Kozie, *Vice President*
Shari Eggleston, *Secretary*
Janet Dale, *Treasurer*
Art Ode
Edith Brevold
Pam Dryer
Grandon Harris
Tam Hofman
Howard Paap
Phil Peterson

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



Sign of success: The plaque at left is mounted on the Nourse Sugarbush Cabin and commemorates the founding of the Nourse Sugarbush State Natural Area, a collaborative effort in which the Bayfield Regional Conservancy was integrally involved.

BRC News and Updates

A Newcomer's Thoughts about the BRC

By Howard Paap

Those of us connected with the BRC have no problem feeling good about the long-term goals of our organization. Preserving our dwindling natural areas,



their resident plant and animal species, the quality of their waters and air, all are obvious worthwhile ends and we easily identify with them. But, the dream is one thing—praxis is another. During the past twelve months or so I have begun to appreciate the amount of effort required to bring this dream to reality.

As a relatively new member of the BRC's Board of Directors I am beginning to understand the day-by-day work going on behind the scenes. There never is enough time to attain all we would desire, but, hopefully, with continued growth we will accomplish even more of our goals. The work is unrelenting, but the reward is compelling.

This is why we are always thrilled when more landowners decide to join with us in achieving our

goals. In this regard the BRC is particularly pleased to applaud Jerry Bauman, Susan DeNuccio and Martin Hanson, three citizens who recently saw the completion of the administrative work for their land conservation projects. After much effort, the multitude of paperwork is finished and the new files put away. Three more important parcels of land here in the Northland are preserved.

This is why I agreed to serve on the BRC's board. Step by step, the work goes on, and for me, this is only the beginning. More files wait to be completed, more phone calls and office visits wait to be made. In future newsletters we hope to share with our readers the reasons why landowners like these three decided to preserve their lands and took the needed steps to do so.

The specifics of each parcel vary, but the ultimate motivation behind the action is the same: these landowners understood that conserving key pieces of land in our region is important to our ongoing efforts for keeping life meaningful and rewarding in our region.

The future looks good for the BRC and that means it looks good for all of us here in northern Wisconsin. ●

Wear Your Support for the Bayfield Regional Conservancy!



Bayfield Regional Conservancy has merchandise for sale. Many of you may have seen the hats and tote bags available to purchase. We now have 100% organic cotton t-shirts available to purchase in blue with white lettering or cream with clay lettering. Return this form with your payment to Bayfield Regional Conservancy. Allow six to eight weeks for delivery.

Adult Sizes: (Circle) Small Medium Large XL 2XL

Color: (Circle) Light Blue/white lettering Cream/clay lettering

Ship to: _____

name

address

city, state, zip

Please enclose \$20/t-shirt, payable to BRC, shipping and handling included. Save \$5 by ordering ahead and picking up your t-shirt at the office!

Gifts in Honor and Memory

Over the past year, many members and friends and family of members have decided to donate to BRC in lieu of gift giving throughout the year. If you would like to give a gift or suggest BRC as a place for someone to give a gift in your honor just let us know. We can even send out special cards, per request. All gifts are also acknowledged in our newsletter. Thank you for remembering BRC. ●

Jerry J. Jolly (1936–2007)

Jerry Jolly passed away this winter at his home in Bayfield. Jerry loved the deep woods, was an avid hunter, fisherman and archer. He believed in sharing the land with others and acted on this belief by donating land he loved to become a public trail.

In October 2007, the Jerry Jay Jolly Hiking Trail was dedicated. The trail head starts off of Star Route Road in Bayfield and connects with the Mount Ashwabay Ski Trails.

Jerry's legacy will live on due to his generosity and foresight in sharing the land he loved to be enjoyed by all. In lieu of gifts, his family asked for donations to be sent to Bayfield Regional Conservancy and Paralyzed Vets of America. Memorials have been given by Mark and Shari Eggleston and Ruth Oppedahl.



In Honor

Anniversaries:

- Forest & Georgia Rettmer in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Chuck & Janet Simoneau
- Bobbie Freitag in honor of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of John & Gurine Gall
- Mary Anna Durst gave a gift to Mount Ashwabay in honor of the 13th anniversary of John & Lynda Nedden-Durst

Birthdays:

- John & Heather Rettmer, Peter & Mary Rettmer, Rebecca Rettmer & Bert Sagara, and Kim & Tim Rinehart gave gifts to Mount Ashwabay in honor of Forest Rettmer's 76th birthday
- Eric and Angela Korpela gave gifts in honor of Janice & Ernest Korpela

Holidays and Special Gifts:

- Kathleen Russell in honor of Gayle Chatfield
- Emily Kozié Christmas gift in honor of Karin Kozié & Bill Route

In Memory

- Ken & Mary Defoe to Mt. Ashwabay in memory of Bill Gary
- Corinne Link in memory of Robert Farning
- Ann Falby and Barbara Leavy in memory of Karen Algire
- Peg Griese in memory of George Griese
- Kathleen Russell in memory of Virginia Hughes
- Karin Kozié & Bill Route in memory of Daniel Kozié
- Memorials also given in memory of Birch Loomis and Damien Roode
- Kay Craft in memory of her husband Harland who enjoyed the beauty of Bayfield County.
- Nancy Nedden in memory of Robert Nedden

Consider a Planned Gift to BRC

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.

Mt. Ashwabay: A Partnership Success

One day last November, we received a call from Libby Livermore remembering her girlhood days skiing at Mt. Ashwabay and seeing our special appeal in the newsletter, said to herself, "This is something I can do something about!" So she called the BRC office and offered to direct her \$18,000 dividend payment towards the land acquisition. Libby hoped that her donation might inspire others, and it sure did!

Her gift was the beginning of a tremendous response from our community to purchase this land that had so many memories for so many people. Our BRC mailbox received more than 100 donations from community members who sent in \$10 or \$25 to help purchase the land.

What an honor to open our email and see this message from a Conservancy member: "I'd like to make a \$1,000 donation to be put toward the Ashwabay Ridge project. We just got back from skiing the new trails at Jerry Jay Jolly's Pikes Creek area, and they were wonderful. I'm so glad that the project has come together."

Forrest Rettmer's adult children who remembered enjoying the Mt. Ashwabay area devised a unique birthday gift for their father. They each donated \$76 for each year of his life, and directed the gift toward buying the land.

The land holds stories. The overwhelming response from all of you, including our state Department of Natural Resources agency, indicated that the Mt. Ashwabay land is special.

From pre-settlement sugaring by the Anishshinabe people who lived here, through its history as a commercial sugarbush, then the larger hill being developed as a family ski center, and now a Midwest destination for winter and summer recreation. It is important to many of us, that this land was preserved for everyone to enjoy into the future.

With great appreciation, we recognize the following people, businesses, and federal, state and local government agencies who contributed toward the land acquisition at Mt. Ashwabay. ●

Mt. Ashwabay Donors

Lars Akerberg	Nan Fey & Bill Cronon	Rick Kovach	Julie Buckles & Charly Ray
Terry & Heidi Anderson	Craig Florine	Nancy Langston	Peter & Mary Rettmer
Scott Armstrong	Roberta & Rick Freitag	Bill & Marilyn Larson	John & Heather Rettmer
Jo & Mike Bailey	Terry & Lynn Frick	John Laubach	Forrest & Georgia Rettmer
Gordon Bauman	Tom & Roxanne Frizzell	Mark Laurion	Rebecca Rettmer & Bert Sagara
Bay Area Active Sports Alliance	Joel & Kathy Furda	Susan Leigh	Harriet Riley
Bayfield County	Daniel & Patricia Gardner	Laurel Lein	Kim & Tim Rinehart
William & Dorothy Bechtel	Mark & Anita Goellner	Gene Lemmenes	Phyllis Rivard & Alan Rosendahl
Bob Benjamin	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Good	Laura & Earl Lima	Bill Route & Karin Kozié
John C. Bock Foundation	David Greenberg &	Christine Lindsey	Kathleen Russell
John & Jo Boll	Tamara Bauers	Elizabeth Livermore	Eunice Schwenzfeier
Bill Bombria & Christopher Morrill	Peg Griese	Jill Lorenz	Theresa & Rick Seppa
Peter & Carla Bremner	Doug Haag	Peter Lovance	Gary Sherman
Robert & Marilyn Buscher	Frances Halverson	Doralu Lynch	Michelle & Tom Shrider
Bill & Nancy Bussey	Loretta Halvorson &	Mark & Nancy Macintyre	Jody & Kurt Buetow Slocum
Stuart Campbell	Emelda Kovachevich	Jeanne & Reid Mandel	Deborah Zvosec & Stephen Smith
Jo & Robert Carlson	David & Ilona Harju	Jerry & Jill Martin	James & Liane Smith
Ellen Kwiatkowski & Eric Carlson	Dennis Harkins & Jane Hilgers	Mark & Sue Martin	Karen Soland
Dick & Jody Carver	Grandon & Dorothy Harris	Thomas Mathisen	David & Judith Sonstegard
Arnie & Patty Carver	Jim & Holly Hemingway	Chris & Cindy McGrath	Philip Sorensen
Daniel & Suzanne Cervin	Stacey Berkheimer &	Bill Meller	Phil Freeman & Wendy Stein
Richard & Darlene Charboneau	Timothy Herstein	Kathy Iverson & Mike Menzel	David & Kathy Stoll
John Chesney	Virginia Hirsch	Wayne & Vernelle Mercer	Paul Sturgul
Mr. Donnan	Miriam Hof	Jane & Jim Moeller	Herbert Suerth
Clyde Clauson	David & Barbara Houser	Murphy Oil Corporation	Davis Taylor
ML Coburn	Jeffrey & Lindy Howe	John & Lynda Nedden-Durst	Nicholas J. Tesser
Tom & Connie Cogger	Dan & Mary Hymans	Ros Nelson	Janis & Don Tweedy
Jeff & Kristin Dahl	David & Marjorie Johnson	Sharon Okonek	Richard Vernon
Ken & Mary Defoe	Imogene Powers Johnson	Clark & Ann Olsen	U.S. Department of Housing and
Cindy Dillenschneider &	Mark & Mary Johnson	Ruth Oppedahl	Urban Development
Jason Maloney	Gene Kalligher	Mick Parent & Jen Maytum	Renee West
Mary Anna Durst	Dennis & Penny Kalmon	Phil & Sheree Peterson	George & Kitty Wilson
Tom Dwight	Dr. Bertram & Jane Kasiske	Mary & Jerry Phillips	Winfield Inn, Inc.
Tim Edwards & Heidi Goehring	Raun & Beth Keagy	Lloyd Pray	Wisconsin Coastal Management
Mark & Shari Eggleston	John & Lynda Kern	Carol & Gene Qualle	Program
Andy Falconer	Jeremy Koehl	Rebecca Rathke	Wisconsin Department of Natural
Bill & Claudia Ferraro	Patricia Murphy & Keith Koening	Sarah Lund & Dean Rau	Resources

BRC Member Profile

Apple Grove Inn: A Unique Part of the Bayfield Experience

By Lynda Nedden-Durst

In talking with Kathy Bergner of Apple Grove Inn, I learned how bed and breakfasts are much more than a place to lay your head and grab a bite to eat. They are about the camaraderie of visiting an area and truly getting to know what that region has to offer.

The Apple Grove Inn was opened for business the summer of 2004, only four days after its six-month-long renovation. According to Kathy, good timing and great contractors helped things fall into place quickly.

The guests served are drawn to Bayfield for its natural beauty, but about three-fourths of them need some guidance in what there is to do once they arrive, having chosen their destination but not necessarily their agendas. Kathy directs folks to the Bayfield Chamber and shares maps and stories of the trails Bayfield Regional



Conservancy has helped to protect over the years. Sometimes the guests pass this information on to each other as part of the homey atmosphere provided by the renovated farm house.

Apple Grove Inn supports the mission of BRC, feeling we are an excellent, critical asset to an area with so much natural beauty. They want their guests to enjoy nature in its pristine form and love to share the grass-roots stories behind the trails protected and

cared for by a community dedicated to keeping the natural beauty in Bayfield. ●



Join us! Call Contact BRC at (715) 779-5263 to discuss business membership opportunities.

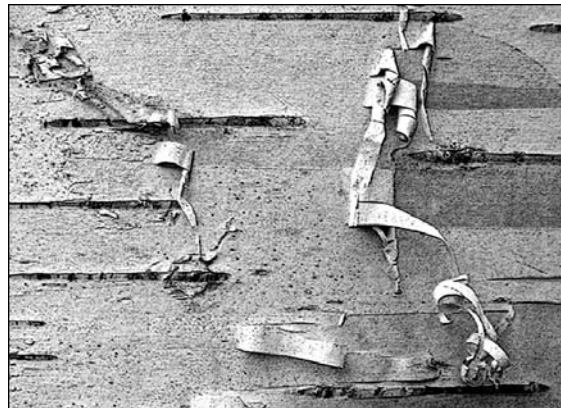
BRC Nature Notes

The Beauty of Birch

By Lynda Nedden-Durst

Driving along Highway 13 from Cornucopia to Bayfield in the winter has to be one of the most peaceful and beautiful drives in the state. You never know what type of wildlife may cross your path—bald eagles, coyotes, wolves, great gray owls, perhaps—but you can always rely on the beauty of the birch. The stark contrast of the white bark with a crisp blue winter sky cannot be compared. Birch trees are one of the living reminders that we are in the north woods of Wisconsin.

Betula papyrifera, the paper birch, and *Betula lutea*, the yellow birch, are two northern species found in and around the Bayfield Peninsula. Birch is a soft wood with a very strong bark that decays much more slowly than the wood it protects. As a result, the use of the birch bark is historically significant for the native people of the area,



providing everything from shelter to transportation and storage.

The bark is also an excellent fire starter, unfortunately making it a target for damage at campgrounds such as Birch Grove outside of Washburn. Many people do not seem to know that the dead and down trees provide a better source of fire-starting bark,

instead leaving dark scars on the clusters of trees at the campsites.

Birch are not known for their long life spans, but they are determined and can grow and thrive in adverse conditions. They are often found hanging on to sandstone cliffs at the edge of streams and along the rugged shoreline of Lake Superior, reminding us all that even in the most harsh conditions, there is still growth. ●

—In memory of Birch Loomis (1977–2007)



Bayfield Regional Conservancy
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Bayfield Regional Conservancy
Wisconsin's First-Ever Land Trust of the Year!



Come Join Us!

Annual Maple Syrup & Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, April 5
8:00—10:00 a.m.

Mount Ashwabay Ski Chalet

Our annual Maple Syrup & Pancake Breakfast will feature homemade buttermilk pancakes, local maple syrup and blueberries, local breakfast meats, Bayfield apple cider and coffee. Suggested donation: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 10 and under or \$25 for a family. There also will be a guided hike out to the sugarbush.

For more information call the BRC at
 715-779-5263. Hope to see you there!

Membership Survey

Members! Let us know what you think about the current and future state of the Bayfield Regional Conservancy—and your role in it—by taking our member survey. Watch your mailboxes—the survey will be mailed to you soon. You can also take the survey online by clicking on the “Member Survey” icon on our home page (www.brcland.org).

