



*helping landowners
preserve northwest
Wisconsin's land legacy*

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Frog Bay, It's Time to Celebrate

By *Dennis McCann*

David Johnson remembers that when he bought a prime piece of Lake Superior frontage at public auction in 1980 he learned from a county clerk that the Red Cliff tribe had wanted the land but could not afford to put in a bid. It made him feel a bit funny to obtain onetime tribal land in such a way, he said recently, but not enough that he considered turning the property, which he knew would someday have much greater value, back to the tribe.

But fast-forward more than 30 years and that is exactly what is happening. In a move applauded by tribal officials, Johnson and his wife, Marjorie, are selling the property to the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, in partnership with the Bayfield Regional Conservancy. The acquisition will protect the now 88.6 acre property, including Johnson's original 40 acres and an adjacent piece he added later, along with keeping in its pristine state the nearly quarter mile of sandy and pebble beaches offering views of five of the Apostle Islands.

Rose Gurnoe Soulier, tribal chairperson, said Red Cliff residents are elated at being able to again have access to a site that holds cultural and spiritual significance and which historically was within the reservation boundary and in tribal ownership.

Even better, that new access to what Soulier calls "this gem" will soon be enjoyed by more than just tribal members. In an unprecedented move for a Wisconsin Indian tribe, Red Cliff officials are planning to repurpose the property as Frog Bay Tribal National Park, open to both tribal and non-tribal members for hiking, birding, beach use and other recreational opportunities. The tribe will also use the property for gathering medicinal plants, nature-based educational activities and traditional and spiritual ceremonies, uses that will both protect the property and help preserve tribal traditions and way of life.

To further ensure long-term protection of the property, the Bayfield Regional Conservancy will hold a conservation easement on the land that will permanently restrict uses that are not compatible with protection of its conservation values, including subdivisions, development, excessive logging and more.

Tribal officials are not the only ones happy at the outcome. Johnson, a retired University of Wisconsin professor of labor relations and economics, agreed to sell the property for half of its appraised value, in essence making a contribution of the balance, in order to protect the land.

"I could not be happier about knowing that the Frog Bay property will be preserved for the future. I've always felt a little embarrassed at owning property that should have been in the tribe's hands all along."

In turn, tribal vice-chair Marvin Defoe, who Soulier said first came up with the idea for a tribal national park, similarly credits Johnson for seeing the value of working with the tribe and the Conservancy to permanently protect a special place.

I would like to acknowledge him for the generosity," said Defoe, who said the Chippewas' very identity is indelibly tied to the land and the water and that Johnson's actions will allow them to "make sure that land is held in reverence again.

"I never met the guy but he also had some guiding principles that are like ours."

In fact, Johnson's guiding principles on forest ownership explain why the property maintains so much of its natural



Pictured from left at the newly acquired Frog Bay property are Travis Olson, BRC Executive Director Ellen Kwiatkowski, Bayfield Mayor Larry McDonald, Tia Nelson, Bryan Bainbridge, and Chad Abel



Photo by Grandon Harris

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From the Director

I love this time of year. The snow, the holidays, spending time with family and friends, and the silence of the woods, as I imagine everything sleeping under its winter blanket, all provide an interesting juxtaposition to the activity of the Conservancy. We are a hustling hub, a gale force whirl of conservation zeal, a blizzard of land protection hoopla. This is actually one of our busiest times of year with year-end requests going out, donations coming, in and conservation projects in their final phase of completion for those landowners who want to close before we ring in 2012.



It is also a time to reflect, not only on the year 2011, but since this is an anniversary year (15!), on our history as well. The Conservancy has really made a big impact on our communities. Our portfolio of work includes projects such as Corny Beach, the Brownstone Trail, Mount Ashwabay, the Nourse Sugarbush State Natural Area, Houghton Falls Nature Preserve, the Big Ravine, White River Fisheries Habitat Area, and now Frog Bay Tribal National Park—all places that are preserved forever, and where you and I can enjoy nature.

Also, by entering into legally binding land management agreements with private landowners, who willingly restrict their land use permanently, we have protected even more land and habitats. We currently have 19 of these agreements, known as Conservation Easements, peppered throughout Bayfield, Ashland, Douglas and Sawyer Counties, and because the agreements run with the land (they are attached to the Deed), they are perpetual, regardless of who may be the future owner.

As we celebrate our fifteen years of preserving the places we all love, we find ourselves not only working on more projects than ever, but working on larger acreage projects as well. The projects we have in the pipeline right now actually double the number of acres we have protected in our fifteen year history (both acquisition and easement agreements). This work could not continue were it not for the commitment of our loyal membership, our dedicated Board of Directors, our competent staff, and our many enthusiastic volunteers. We are grateful for all your steadfast contributions of time and money. Thank you to all of you and many wishes for a peaceful and joy-filled holiday season.

—Ellen Kwiatkowski

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Putting the Trust in Land Trust

If you haven't already heard, the Conservancy has applied for Accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance. You can think of the Accreditation program as similar to a certification program for organic foods. For example, certification groups like the Midwest Organic Services Agency (MOSA) create standards for organic food production and monitor farmers who must follow rigorous guidelines to comply with those standards.

Basically, that is what LTA's Accreditation program does for land trusts. It certifies that an organization is following sound financial management protocols, completing excellent due diligence in its land projects, and implementing strong organizational management practices. The Conservancy is pleased to announce that, after a few years of good planning and hard work, we have completed the application process. Now... we wait.

We have been notified that we will hear in February whether or not we have been approved for Accreditation. Watch for an announcement!! ●

SAVE THE DATE!

- The 7th Annual Maple Syrup Pancake Breakfast •
- Saturday, April 21st**
- 8:00am - 11:00am • Mt. Ashwabay Ski Chalet



The BRC Welcomes Meghan Dennison

BRC's New Director of Development & Outreach



Meghan discovered the Bayfield region while paddling around the Apostle Islands during her honeymoon this past summer. She was immediately awed by the breathtaking beauty surrounding Lake Superior. She was impressed by the community of Bayfield and specifically BRC's land projects, including the Big Ravine and Brownstone trails. Prior to joining the BRC staff, Meghan worked for High Country Citizens' Alliance, an environmental organization in Crested Butte, Colorado. For three years she served as the organization's Membership & Outreach Director and following that joined that organization's Board of Directors.

Meghan graduated with honors from Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado, with degrees in Political Science and Anthropology. When not working or volunteering Meghan loves to spend her time with her husband, Neil, and their overgrown Great Pyrenees, Marley, exploring pristine wilderness and forest areas on foot, snowshoes, or cross country skis.

Meghan is an avid outdoorswoman; you will find her camping year round, gardening, or riding her old Schwinn bicycle around town. Meghan has embraced her new role as the Director of Development & Outreach for the BRC, and she looks forward to getting to know the community. ●

BRC Welcomes New Board Members

By Dennis McCann

The newest members of the Bayfield Regional Conservancy board bring decades of business and financial world experience along with the conservation ethic that is at the heart of BRC's work.

They are **Bob Durfey**, a registered civil engineer who has spent his lifetime in the construction and development industry, and **Mike Fiorio** who, with his brother and another partner, has long operated a financial planning and investment firm in Ashland.

Durfey is a partner in Jackson Meadow Company, which developed a sustainable housing community in Minnesota that won several design awards from professional and environmental organizations. His work experience has run the gamut from carpenter and engineer to real estate developer and construction manager; Durfey is currently director of construction services at EnviroMed Design Group, which specializes in construction of medical and dental offices. He divides his time between Bayfield and the Twin Cities but hopes to live in Bayfield fulltime by next summer.

Fiorio came to Ashland in 1976 to attend Northland College, first to pursue forestry studies but later graduating with a degree in business administration. With his brother John and partner Eric Neumann, Mike is an owner and operator of Fiorio Brothers Investment Center in Ashland and Park Falls. He lives on 200 acres south of Ashland in rural Bayfield County, where he spends time improving wildlife habitat, tending to fruit trees and shrubs and trying to improve his skills as "an amateur and aspiring" fish farmer.

Fiorio said it was the special nature of wild spaces of northern Wisconsin that prompted him to serve on the BRC board, noting that even beyond positive developments on Frog Bay preservation, a new easement on Callahan Lake, White River protections and other recent achievements, "I see good things ahead for the conservancy...there's lots to go."

His professional background, especially in helping clients make financial decisions about lasting contributions to causes they support, should prove helpful, he said. "I'm looking forward to bringing some of that to the equation."

Durfey, similarly, said his background as a developer will be valuable in helping BRC analyze potential land projects. In what he called something of a "baptism of fire," Durfey accompanied BRC executive director Ellen Kwiatkowski on several land inspections during his first weeks on the board and found the experience helpful in understanding the work that BRC does.

He said the orientation offered to both new members also made clear the organization's goals and make-up.

"It felt very positive after that right away," Durfey said. "I'm looking at just a real positive experience there. You mentioned real life experience, I can bring that to the board. I know I can." ●



Bob Durfey



Mike Fiorio

The Heart of the Headwaters of the Chippewa Flowage - Callahan Lake

The Bayfield Regional Conservancy has applied for a grant to purchase an easement on a 700-acre property on Callahan Lake in Sawyer County. This would preserve a special piece of northern land while also opening a currently private site to public recreational use.

The Conservancy's request is for a \$1.1 million grant from the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Fund, to purchase an easement that would protect four miles of mainland shoreline and another 1.4 miles of island shoreline from development. The entire property encompasses several shorelines, wetlands, and uplands along Callahan Lake, which is located in the heart of the Chippewa River headwaters.

There are numerous ways to measure the site's significance, all of which testify to the importance of protecting the property.

The site is located in the North Fork of the Chief River, which has been identified as a Wisconsin Land Legacy site. The North Fork flows from the Tiger Cat Flowage south to the famed Chippewa Flowage, another Land Legacy site, and provides an important muskellunge spawning area for the



Callahan Lake

would provide public access for hiking, cross country skiing, trapping, hunting and fishing. The landowner has agreed to provide a public boat access on the eastern shore for small non-motorized watercraft.

—By Dennis McCann

“There are still a number of hoops that we have to jump through before the project can be completed, including approval by the Natural Resource Board and Joint Finance Committee. It is such an exceptional property and would be quite a recreational asset for the Hayward area. The Conservancy hopes to hear whether or not the project is approved by springtime.” — Ellen Kwiatkowski

Partnering For Sustainable Forests

By Dennis McCann

The Bayfield Regional Conservancy, long dedicated to land protection as an agency, has launched a program to help private landowners learn ways to better conserve their own property. The new Northwoods Sustainable Forestry Education Fund, operated in partnership with the Living Forest Cooperative, allows individuals to make tax-deductible donations to a BRC fund supporting forestry education initiatives led by the cooperative.

LFC is a for-profit enterprise that offers forestry services and conservation management plans. It operates as a small business, charging clients for services, but that provides little funding for education and outreach, said BRC Executive Director Ellen Kwiatkowski.

But with the forestry fund BRC can focus on its own mission of land protec-

tion while Living Forest uses its resources to promote forest stewardship. Since starting the fund in June donors have contributed over \$850.

The fund will allow Living Forest to provide information to landowners at no charge. “When it comes to planning for the future of their forest land, landowners have various funding sources, tax considerations and environmental complications to consider,” said Living Forest General Manager Charly Ray.

“For years people have been asking for a way to make tax-deductible donations to our educational activities—this provides them that opportunity.”

The Lake Superior Binational Forum recognized Living Forest last year with a Lake Superior Stewardship Award for its leadership in protecting Lake Superior by practicing ecological forestry with private landowners. In



2010, BRC and LFC conducted a series of workshops for landowners, detailing strategies for conserving their lands, and together have produced a booklet on conservation strategies.

“It fits with BRC's mission to conserve forest land,” Kwiatkowski said. “We view LFC's work as a way to advance that cause because they foster healthy forests and supporting healthy forests is part of what we do.”

For more about LFC visit www.livingforestcoop.com ●

Brownstone Trail Work Party

By Rex Dollinger

Spring shouldn't be quite as muddy on the Brownstone Trail as it was in 2011, thanks to the efforts of a volunteer work party held on Saturday, Oct. 29. Two drainage culverts were installed on the Blue Wing Bay bypass, and some trail widening was done and one drainage culvert was installed on the trail near the Pike's Bay lift station. Taking part in the work efforts were Dick Carver, Kristin Connell, Jerry Johnson, Pat Moe, Jim Moeller, Mel Whiteside, Arnie Carver, Bob Plucinak, Dean Rau, and Rex Dollinger. Thanks to all for the time, equipment and materials donated. ●



What is LEAP?

The Land Trust Excellence and Advancement Program (LEAP) is an intensive, three-year program of services and support for Wisconsin's land trust community. This joint program of the Land Trust Alliance and Gathering Waters Conservancy offers land trust staff and board members the knowledge and organizational capacity that perpetual conservation demands.

Why LEAP?

In the last 10 years, Wisconsin land trusts have experienced a nearly 10-fold increase in acres protected, and it is estimated that the total land protected by Wisconsin land trusts represents nearly \$200 million in assets. As the land trust community has grown, so has our collective responsibility to make sure we have sustainable, well-run organizations to steward the places we have committed to protect forever. Through universally available workshops and trainings, as well as a customized suite of capacity-building services available by application, LEAP helps land trusts to evaluate their practices and take steps to leap to excellence and sustainability.

How do land trusts benefit?

GWC and the Alliance have a shared goal of land trust excellence. We have worked in parallel to strengthen land trust work in Wisconsin for many years. We saw an opportunity to coordinate our complementary services, and by doing so, channel more financial resources to Wisconsin land trusts than ever before.

Wisconsin's land trusts are as diverse as the landscapes they protect. LEAP's goals are to help participating organizations define their own path to excellence, and then pursue that with sustained GWC and Alliance support. LEAP is our most comprehensive strategy to date to raise all land trust ships. We are grateful to our supporters of this program. More information on LEAP can be found at the GWC Web site: www.gatheringwaters.org. ●

The Trees of Home

By Gwen Schultz

I stop by the braided buttress roots of a tropical banyan tree,
Scanning a scene of wintertime green I've traveled far to see—
Live oaks shouldering mossy stoles, hanging limp and still;
A citrus grove in twilight mauve; and there, beside a hill,
A quiet pond rimmed by the fronded silhouette of palms;
And the beauty is sweet in the heavy heat like music of solemn psalms.
But thought I should be in the Garden of Eden, surely even then
I'd often long...as now...to see the trees of home again.

A woods I know where white pines grow up from a needled floor,
Lifting a verdant canopy with a thousand trunks and more.
Emerald gloom in a columned room almost Heaven-high--
Mighty, mute magnificence of centuries gone by.

Take me where towering tamaracks, relics of primeval days,
Cascade their tufted fringes in pyramids of haze.
Fountains of lowing greenness, ethereal they seem,
Foggy in the swampland as in a sylvan dream.

To see a queenly spruce when an ermine robe of snow
Drapes her form symmetrical and weights her branches low.
To see her too in springtime hue, after winter's gone,
Her wide and ruffled skirts sweeping lightly on the lawn.

That hemlock in the wasteland—an aging, shaggy spire,
Torn by wind, gnawed by sleet, its black bark scarred by fire.
Yet many tattered branches stubbornly remain
To filter through the sunshine, to spread the dripping rain;

And like a jagged arrow it's pointed at the sky.
I hope it lives forever...or at least until I die.
O show me those pines and tamaracks, show me the spruces tall,
And show me too the hemlocks, for I dearly love them all.

Find me a path through a forest where those conifers abound,
Where scents of balsam fir coolly drift along the ground,
Where paper birch and quaking aspen shimmer here and there.
That's grandeur unsurpassed by lush landscapes anywhere.

Copyright 1988, Gwen Schultz

—Gwen is a retired geography professor emerita of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, published writer, and member of BRC



Frog Bay *(continued from page 1)*

beauty. Another Bayfield County property he owns was put in the Managed Forest Law program, he said in an article he authored for the *Woodland Management Quarterly* in 2004. But the Frog Bay property, including the original 47 acres he bought at auction and a neighboring 40 acres he purchased privately a year later from Bayfield resident Ernie LaPointe, were not put into the program which would have required them to harvest timber. Doing so would have reduced his taxes, he acknowledged, but he and his wife “decided that since the taxes were not burdensome, we should maintain its natural beauty and leave it as much as possible in its current pristine condition.”

For the same reason, the Johnsons declined to put the property on the market, fearing any developer wealthy enough to buy it would want to carve it into 150-foot lots. And even while he will no longer have ownership, Johnson hopes strong protections will continue.

“I hope they keep the trees the way they are,” he said. “They are beautiful trees there.”

How the transfer came about involved more than a bit of serendipity. The Johnsons were longtime close neighbors and even closer friends with former Sen. Gaylord Nelson and his family. It was Nelson, of course, who is deemed the father of the Apostle Islands, and the view from the Johnsons' Frog Bay property was of islands managed as part of the Gaylord Nelson Wilderness. It was Nelson's daughter, Tia, who said Marjorie Johnson was “like a second mother to me,” who put the Johnsons in contact with Ellen Kwiatkowski at BRC and initiated discussions that led to tribal acquisition.

“One of things that I really like about this project is it brings so many groups together,” said Kwiatkowski. The purchase is being funded by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program which provides funding for local units of government to acquire important coastal lands. This will be the first time that a Native American tribe receives funding from that program to reclaim coastal lands. The Wisconsin Coastal Management Program also provided a lot of technical support to help bring the project to fruition. Kwiatkowski noted, “This is our first partnership project with the Red Cliff Tribe and we see many opportunities for future collaboration. Our mission of land conservation is very much in alignment with the Native vision of land stewardship that looks seven generations into the future to evaluate sustainable land use.”

Transfer of ownership was expected to take place in November. David Johnson, who is 93, said he hoped to be able to attend and meet tribal officials who will be present and see the property one more time.

Soulier said development of trails within the new park should begin next spring. Under the agreement, a management committee of elders, natural resource professionals, tribal government representatives and Bayfield Regional Conservancy staff will oversee management of the park. Tribal crews and volunteers will maintain trails and access roads, tribal wardens will enforce game regulations and tribal police will enforce park hours.

Defoe said a tribal national park, a name that reflects the sovereignty of the Red Cliff people, will allow members to share more of their reservation, culture and traditions with the larger world. That, he said, would not have been possible with access to Frog Bay that was not available when it was privately owned.

“It's kind of like you own a home (but) you can't go in that one bedroom there,” he said.

Now, Defoe said, the home will be open to all. ●

For the Love of the Brownstone Trail

Recently several local organizations have shown their shared affection for the Brownstone Trail, by coming together to contribute to the Trailhead relocation. The Brownstone Trailhead will soon be located near the historic Ernie La Pointe Marina in the City of Bayfield.

A special thank you goes out to the following for their contributions toward the trailhead relocation:

- Wisconsin Coastal Management Program - \$4,500
- The Bayfield Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau - \$1,000
- The Bayfield Recreation Center - \$1,000
- Chippewa Valley Bank - \$500
- Bremer Bank - \$200

The BRC is pleased to be acknowledged by our community for our efforts in conservation work. ●



From left: Dean Rau, Jim Moeller, Bob Plucinak, and Pat Moe

Gifts in Memory and Honor

In Honor

In honor of Marilyn and Bill Van Sant,
given by Kathleen Russell

In honor of Joseph and Monique Provo,
given by Jane Johnson

Holiday Gifts

In honor of Karin Kozie and Bill Route,
given by Dan and Emily Kozie

In honor of Phil and Sheree Peterson,
given by the Leffler family and
Stella & Kenneth Peterson

Gifts in Memory of Anne Rumsey

What Goes	Tom & Roxanne Frizzell	Walter Pearson
Round/Bayfieldbooks.com	Robert & Jill Gitar	Susan & Mark Pillsbury
Bayfield Bike Route	Maureen Gosser	Gennifer Reed
Eckels Pottery & Fine Craft Gallery	Abigail Greene	Sally & Sheldon Rice
Bayfield Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau	Solveig Hadland	Charles & Jean Rumsey
Bradford Rencher	Stuart Henry	Kathleen Russell
Brooks Armor Diesel	Bill & Sally Heytens	Jan & Mark Seiler
IS Leaders	Virginia Hirsch	Sue Sjeklocha
Karen Allerio	Miriam Hof	Dam & Elizabeth Smith
Natasha Arntsen	Christine & Alan Ingram	Sue Stewart
Christine Bardon	Dave & Diane Judd	Max Sutton
Madge Bishop	Carol & Thomas Kerske	Marjorie Sutton Dickinson
Bill & Nancy Bussey	Michael Larsen	Richard Thompson
Ellen Kwiatkowski and Eric Carlson	Gene Lemmenes	Beth Tierney
Elizabeth Bernstein	Suzanne & Neil Lewis	Jason & Stephanie Towley
David & Lorie Croke	Jan MacFarland	Rebecca Verrill Smith
Joan Einsman	Ted & Cyndi May	Eric Wahlberg
	Lynda Nedden-Durst	Patricia White
	Carolyn & Jeffrey Obst	Louis & Avis Wysocki
	Craig Olson & Astrid Slungaard	Bradford Rencher
		Elizabeth Bernstein



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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

Consider a Planned Gift

A planned gift to Bayfield Regional Conservancy is a great way to give something back to our region and 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 BRC 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 the legacy to BRC.

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



'Tis the Season for Gift Memberships

As the year-end approaches, please consider supporting the Bayfield Regional Conservancy with a gift of a BRC membership. We will send your loved one a Holiday card acknowledging your gift. Please call us at 715-779-5263 (LAND) for more information or to set up this special gift.



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

Fall/Winter 2011
All the latest news from your



Join Bayfield Regional Conservancy on facebook to find out what is going on!

Information update

We are attempting to update information in our database for all members and friends of Bayfield Regional Conservancy. Please mail or e-mail the following information to PO Box 410, Bayfield, WI 54814 or brc@brcland.org.

Your name and address: _____

Your email address: _____

- E-Mail only** — receive all information by e-mail, including renewals, newsletters and other information and requests.
- Mail & E-Mail** — receive both; please update e-mail if you are currently not receiving e-blasts.
- Add to E-Blast** — monthly news updates sent to your e-mail.
- Volunteer** — Office, Trails, Events, Committees, Other
- Remove** from Mailing and/or E-Mail Lists — quit getting all the great information we have to offer!
- New Addresses** — Please keep us updated so we can do the same for you!