

*helping landowners
preserve northwest
Wisconsin's land legacy*

Volume 9, Fall 2009

BRC Begins Identifying Priority Conservation Areas

During the past 12 years, the Bayfield Regional Conservancy has been building a strong reputation within its region as a leader in conservation. As of October 2009, BRC has successfully conserved approximately 2,340 acres at 46 sites through conservation easements, acquisitions and partnerships.

As BRC continues to grow and evolve as an organization, it is imperative that its resources be used effectively and efficiently to ensure continued high quality conservation into the future.

With population and development pressures ever increasing, the need to proactively conserve areas of high conservation interest is at its greatest. To meet these challenges, BRC has committed to the development of comprehensive Strategic Conservation Plans (SCP) throughout its service area beginning with Lake Superior's Bayfield Peninsula. The project was made possible through a DNR River Planning Grant and a Land Trust Alliance Strategic Conservation Planning Grant (through the Mott Foundation).

The purpose of Site Conservation Planning is to gather known conservation data and analyze it, using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to identify Priority Conservation Areas (PCA) where proactive conservation programs will be implemented. PCAs are defined as areas where several high quality conservation values (e.g. wildlife habitat, water quality, rare species, scenic features, and wetlands) overlap, creating a "hot spot" for conservation. The Plan does not identify specific parcels that warrant conservation or parcels that do not warrant protection; rather it is intended to guide a proactive land protection program targeting the landscape scale PCAs.

Areas that are not identified by the plan will not be excluded from consideration for protection by BRC initiatives.

In total, 55 key data layer sets were used in the analysis including DNR natural heritage element occurrences, DNR trout streams, DNR outstanding and excellent resource waters, Bayfield County zoning, NRCS statewide important soils, DNR conservation opportunity areas, DNR priority wetlands, rivers and lakes, among others.

Once draft sites were identified, the analysis and results were distributed to partner organizations and natural resource professionals familiar with Bayfield County's natural resources for their feedback. Once received, the feedback was compiled and incorporated into the final plan.

PRIORITY CONSERVATION AREAS

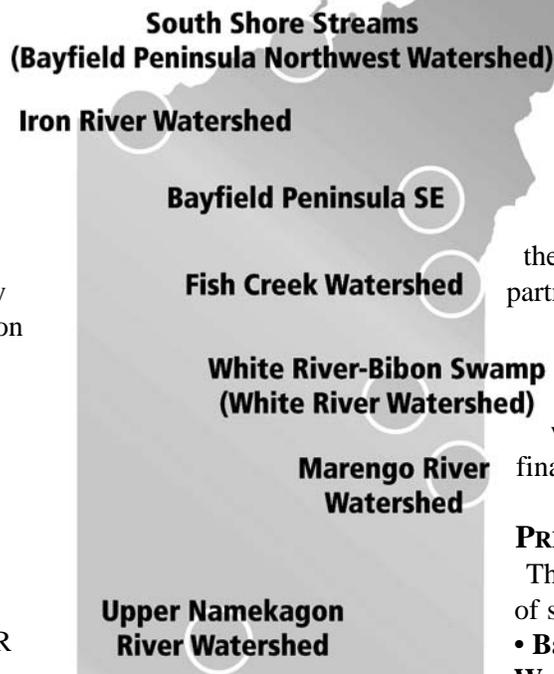
The analysis resulted in the identification of seven Priority Conservation Areas:

- **Bayfield Peninsula Southeast Watershed:**

The watershed includes beaches, large patches of intact forest,

pristine rivers and wetlands, such as the forests of Mount Ashwabay and watersheds, bays, coastal wetlands and estuaries of Sioux, Raspberry and Onion Rivers; Frog, Pike's and Whittlesey Creeks. The area is important for its incredible diversity of habitats, migratory birds, fish spawning sites and high quality trout streams.

- **Fish Creek Watershed:** Fish Creek watershed spans a rich array of habitats: hardwood swamps, the Moquah barrens and grasslands, and rural and forestry communities, before emptying into the head of Chequamegon Bay. Fish Creek's sloughs host herons, terns, ducks, geese, swans, grebes, and gulls as well as fish and wildlife. Its critical habitats include fish spawning



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News and Updates

Departing Board Members

Proving again that the only constant is change, the Bayfield Regional Conservancy says farewell and thank you to departing board members, just as it also prepares to welcome a new slate of volunteers to the cause of conservation in the Chequamegon region.

Among those leaving the board after completion of their terms are two veterans, **Art Ode** and **Howard Paap**, and two members whose service was shorter in duration but nonetheless valued and appreciated.



Howard Paap

Howard Paap of Bayfield, a longtime teacher at midwestern colleges, brought to the board an anthropologist's long view of the world as well as a commitment to land preservation. Because of his long study of and writings about the Ojibwe community, not to mention his long marriage to a Red Cliff member, Howard brought a special sensitivity to issues of preservation of native lands. A multi-faceted man who is an artist, writer and radio host, Howard lent a gentle voice to the discussion and will no doubt continue to serve BRC as a volunteer, and certainly as cheerleader, in the future. Look for his occasional musings on life in the Bayfield peninsula in the *Daily Press* of Ashland. Howard's term on the board was 2006-2009.

Art Ode, also of Bayfield, brought to the board an extensive and most helpful background as a trained horticulturalist and arborist, a profession he continues to work in as a consultant. Art was able to take part in discussions on a broad scope but also in fine detail; this is a man who knows trees and plants and what makes the plant world worth saving. Look for his informative and entertaining blog about Bayfield and its outdoor environment at bayfieldchamber.blogspot.com. Art's term on the board was 2003-2009.

Dean Rau, who began coming to the Bayfield area in the early 1990s and moved here permanently several years ago, joined the board in late 2008 but has decided not to complete his term due to other commitments. In addition, **Harold Vanselow** of Cornucopia, joined the board as an interim replacement member earlier this year to finish out **Mark Musolf's** term. Harold served as treasurer and put his accounting expertise to task and provided very useful support and recommendations in that area.

"It is always a little sad to see Board Members go when they finish their terms," said BRC Executive Director Ellen Kwiatkowski. "We have been really blessed with the help and support of these supportive, dedicated people who want to have a positive impact on their community through the BRC's Mission." ●



Bayfield Regional Conservancy

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Dennis McCann
Bruce Moore

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

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! Also, totes, hats and organic cotton t-shirts are available for purchase with all proceeds going to support the Conservancy. Please call BRC at 715-779-LAND (5263) to learn more about membership, gift-giving, or volunteer opportunities.

Remembering Kathy Logan

By Lynda Nedden-Durst

Sometimes we meet people who, no matter how short the time we spend with them, have a profound impact on our lives. For me, one of those people was Kathy Logan.

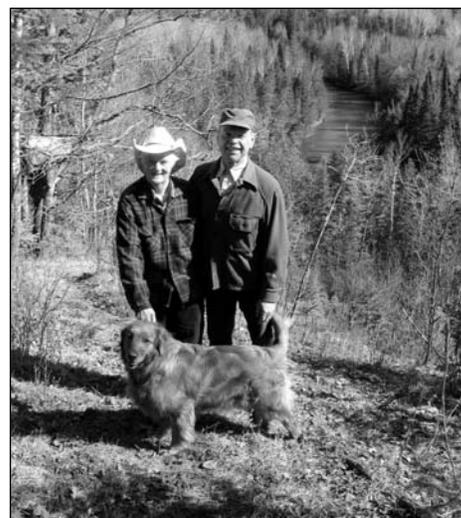
I first met Kathy when I came back to Ashland in 1995 to interview for the assistant director position at what was then called Bushwacker Camp (later named White River Woods). The interview consisted of Kathy and I taking a snowshoe hike around her property and just getting to know each other. We hit it off, so I got the job! It was a very short summer job, but one I will never forget. We spent the evenings making dinner over the camp fire off of the back of the chuck wagon and singing camp songs. During the days, we hiked along the White River and explored the flood plain full of ostrich ferns taller than the kids and made bows, arrows and rain sticks using the plants we found on our many hikes.

The whole idea of Bushwacker camp was to teach kids to enjoy nature by being in it. Kathy knew what kids loved and what they wanted to do. We drank lemonade made with real lemon juice, sugar and water and the kids were always amazed. We ate chocolate pudding by mixing milk and instant pudding mix— nothing fancy but it wasn't about being fancy. It was about being hungry and the kids having the chance to help make the meal.

Kathy was a true steward of the land. Not only did she and her husband, Warren Kehn, purchase and live on a beautiful piece of property along the White River; they felt it was their obligation to share their land with those around them.

We crossed paths again when I started working for BRC and realized that Kathy and Warren put their land in a conservation easement in 2001 because they wanted this beautiful place where they lived to be a special place when they were no longer around to protect it. They wanted the legacy of the land to live on.

Kathy passed away in her home on July 20, 2009, after a battle with cancer. Bushwacker Camp and BRC were just a small part of Kathy's busy, full life, but I think she would be happy to know that her beloved White River will continue to flow through protected acres like Warren and Kathy's homestead and the beautiful property known as the Hanson Farm in the town of Delta. ●



Kathy Logan and Warren Kehn, on their land overlooking the White River



Brownstone Trail Kiosk Gets Facelift

Thank you to Rex and Peggy and Dollinger for taking the time to stain the Kiosk at the head of the Brownstone Trail, protected and maintained by BRC, the adjacent landowners and many other dedicated folks who love and use the trail.

Big Ravine Trail Cleanup

Thank you to BRC's Big Ravine Trail Committee and Mark O'Neill's Ecology Class for cleaning up the site and maintaining the trails in good shape. Our committee members include Chair, Grandon Harris, Mark O'Neill, Doug Lowthian, Janelle and Ritch Ryan, Bruce Moore, Gene Lemmenes, Phil and Sheree Peterson, Bill Peterson, Genevieve and Mike Johnson, Shannon Swanstrom, Nan Fey, Beth Hoagland, and Bob Nelson.



News and Updates

BRC Welcomes Dynamic Duo, Jason and Lynell Sutter



During 2010, the Conservancy will be implementing two grant funded projects (see *BRC Begins Identifying Priority Conservation Areas* and *Advancing the Vision* articles), and has employed Jason and Lynell Sutter of GeoCosmos in Iron River to get the job done.

As BRC's Land Protection Specialist, Jason will be coordinating and implementing landowner outreach workshops on conservation options throughout BRC's service area and as part of GeoCosmos, he and his wife Lynell will be completing a

Strategic Conservation Plan for the geographic area of Douglas County.

GeoCosmos is a small natural resources and GIS consulting firm directed by Jason and Lynell. Founded by Lynell in 2007, GeoCosmos employs the most current geospatial analytical methods, tools, and techniques to synthesize complex environmental problems and provide innovative solutions to the multifaceted challenges present in our world today.

Lynell has over 10 years of experience as a botanist and ecologist, and specializes in biological soil crusts, special status plant species, and rangeland management. Lynell received her M.S. in biology studying the effects of biological soil crusts on seed germination of invasive and non-invasive grass species.

Jason has 19 years of experience as a wildlife biologist and has a M.S. in raptor biology. He has conducted research on raptors and passerines in the rainforests of Central America; bighorn sheep, sage-grouse, and songbirds in the rolling sagebrush steppe of the Intermountain West; and mountain plovers, prairie dogs, and pygmy rabbits in the high desert basins of the Rocky Mountains. Jason and Lynell have both worked for federal land management agencies and have been involved in the preparation of planning documents in support of the National Environmental Policy and Endangered Species acts.

Jason and Lynell hope to contribute their extensive ecological expertise in biodiversity and ecosystem processes in the preparation of a thorough analysis of the conservation opportunities and strategies available in the Douglas County geographic area. In addition to their commitment to conservation, Jason, Lynell and their five children love water, rock and woods in all forms, shapes and sizes and are excited to join the Lake Superior Basin community. ●

Time to Preserve More Wisconsin Farmland!

Full funding approval for Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle's Working Lands Initiative means \$12 million will be allocated for agricultural conservation easement grants.

"It's always a challenge to keep good farmland in production. That's why this program is so important," Doyle said. "If we're going to continue to be a thriving farm state, we're going to have to protect our agricultural land."

The Town of Bayfield's Farmland Preservation Program, implemented through a partnership between the Town of Bayfield and the BRC, has been considered a model program for farmland preservation for the State of Wisconsin. Recently, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Randy Romanski visited the Conservancy's offices and two farms protected through the program: Blue Vista Farm and Highland Valley Farm. Romanski congratulated the Town citizens on their vision for creating the successful program.

Currently, however, the Town of Bayfield program is on hold due to a lack of



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New Conservation Easements

Allerio Conservation Easement: A Parting Gift to the Land

Even as she maintained her home in a hand-built off-the-grid log cabin in the forested hills above Bayfield, Karen Allerio could see change coming. A developer was clearing one hillside site within view of her land, and then another.

She had other intentions for the nearly 80 acres she owned, and while it took some time and effort her dream eventually was realized. In early October, the Bayfield Regional Conservancy approved a conservation easement for Allerio's property that will forever preserve it against the kind of encroachment she had feared. When she went to the proper county offices to record the easement, she said, she had imagined there would be a chorus of hosannas. Instead, there was only a routine transaction, but the fact her celebration was witnessed only by a county clerk did not wipe the beaming smile from her face.

"I am (thrilled), absolutely," she said a few days later, and her smile proved it. "Absolutely, just because I know it's protected now. Because you can see all the development coming around (and) it made me feel very sick about it.

"Now I know it's protected."

In addition to her rustic home and other small buildings, Allerio's property on Turner Road consists of 63 acres of biologically diverse forest, including stands of red oak and aspen, hemlock and northern hardwoods, white pine and aspen and 15 acres of apple Orchard. Portions of the property have been designated as an agricultural zone and a forested zone. The easement document indicated that development of the protected property would impair the scenic character of the rural landscape, which includes the orchard



Karen Allerio and the land she loves

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White River Purchase Assures Preservation

By Dennis McCann

The Bayfield Regional Conservancy, working with Friends of the White River and Trout Unlimited, has purchased 80 acres of vulnerable land along the White River, a move that will protect the parcel from development and allow anglers continued access to the popular waterway.

The property, once known as the Hanson farm, is in the Town of Delta and includes more than 2,000 feet of shoreline on both sides of the river. It is on the edge of the Bibon Swamp and includes black ash swamp on the north side of the river and an old hay field on the south side on Sutherland Road. The



groups bought the highly scenic property to keep it in its natural state, protect its shoreline and to ensure continued non-motorized access for anglers, paddlers, birders and other nature enthusiasts.

The landowner who sold the property to the conservation groups was Thomas Walker of London, who bought the site for his father some years ago so they could fish the White together. Walker's father recently passed away, and he was looking for a way to sell the land yet keep it protected.

Ownership of the property is intended to be temporary. The Conservancy will hold the property until the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources can eventually purchase it to add to adjacent parcels it already owns. The interim purchase was made because DNR funding won't be available until next year, according to Bill Heart, who chairs both Friends of the White River and the Wisconsin chapter of Trout Unlimited.

"The DNR can't always act quickly," Heart said. "Right now they had no money to purchase it. We needed somebody to hold onto it to protect the White. Having the BRC able to do that is (critical). It's just like a win-win for the White River.

"Using that partnership is the key to the whole thing. The last thing we all want to see is a row of condos or cottages along this stretch of the White."

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Advancing the Vision

By Jason Sutter

The Bayfield Regional Conservancy is looking to advance our conservation vision throughout Wisconsin's Lake Superior Basin and broaden interest in our activities through an outreach project aimed at educating our community on the conservation options and tools available to them through various incentive programs. To transmit our message to the far corners of our service area, the BRC has formed a collaborative partnership with the Living Forest Cooperative (LFC) to develop educational materials and hold workshops in Bayfield, Ashland, Douglas and Sawyer Counties in spring 2010.

The Conservation Options and Stewardship Toolbox and Workshops Project is being funded by a \$20,000 grant from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB). WEEB was formed to enable the development of educational opportunities for the people of Wisconsin to gain the knowledge and skills to make wise environmental decisions and take responsible actions. To this end, BRC and LFC, through a series of workshops, hope to educate woodland landowners on the conservation options, voluntary incentive programs, and tax benefits accessible to them.

As Charly Ray, general manager of LFC puts it: "If landowners want to keep their forests intact and healthy for the long run, there are programs to help manage their land and information to make taxes and estate planning more economical—these workshops will try to bring this information together in a tool kit that landowners can use."

Educational handouts, displays, and presentations will cover many topics important to our conservation activities including estate planning, ecological services of our natural resources, parcelization and forest fragmentation, conservation options, and forest and land management incentive programs. The project will target non-industrial forest landowners whose properties (>40 acres) are located within state priority watersheds and priority conservation areas identified through our own strategic conservation planning efforts.

"Forest fragmentation is one of our biggest concerns for our regional ecosystem," said Ray. "Landowners can take steps to both improve the health of their forest and maintain the integrity of the forest. A big part of taking action is knowing what options and resources are out there. The tool kit being developed for these workshops should help people understand some of their options and connect with resources to keep their forests intact and in the family." The Living Forest Coop's encouragement of sustainable forestry practices promotes a healthy environment for future generations and complements the Conservancy's mission.

In addition to presentations from BRC and LFC staff, the half-day workshops will feature presentations from UW Extension staff, area conservation organizations and federal, state, and local agency personnel. We expect to have workshop dates and locations set by early 2010. The events will be publicized through websites, newsletters, direct mailings, and a series of press releases and articles in the local media. Summing it up, Ray said "Sometimes landowners just need a little information or someone to contact for help managing their land sustainably or keeping it in the family for the long run." ●

Recent & Upcoming Events

• Pancake Breakfast

The 5th Annual BRC Maple Syrup Pancake Breakfast was held on Saturday, April 4 at the Mount Ashwabay Ski Chalet. We do our best to use local producers and this year we would like to thank 6th Street Market, Highland Valley Farm, Mt. Ashwabay Educational Foundation, Marilyn & Danny Nourse, Sysco, Bayfield Apple Company, Morning View Farm, Ehlers Store and the Village Inn for their support. We also thank the 20 volunteers it takes to pull off this event! We served 200 people this year.

• Lasagna Dinner

BRC hosted a lasagna dinner in conjunction with the Sea Kayak Symposium on June 19. Thank you to Washburn Elementary School, Inland Sea Society, Washburn IGA, Ehlers Store, Egg Toss, and Village Inn for their contributions. Thanks too to the 25 volunteers for making lasagnas and helping out. We served 240 people 26 pans of lasagna, 15 lbs of salad, 72 cups of coffee, 8 gallons of lemonade, 6 gallons of ice tea and 200+ pieces of dessert!

• Volunteer Hike

In appreciation of all of our excellent volunteers, Lynda Nedden-Durst will lead a snowshoe Hike this winter as a special thank you. Volunteers will be notified when the hike is scheduled.

• BioBlitz

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 for a specific area. We were unable to organize our BioBlitz this past summer but are going to work on it for this summer. To make it happen, we will need a dedicated group of volunteers to start meeting over the winter. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Lynda at the office or Lynda@brcland.org or Doug Lowthian at 779-3029 or dlowthian@centurytel.net.

• Events Committee Members Needed!

Hikes on our properties, Pancake Breakfast, Many Penny Days, BioBlitz, dinners and wine tasting—all great opportunities to spread the name and work of BRC. To make these and other events happen, we are looking for Volunteers for our events committee to plan and run all of our events over the year. Please contact Lynda at the office or at Lynda@brcland.org if you are interested in being part of this aspect of BRC.

Wisconsin's Ash Forests Threatened

By Howard Paap

For the past few years we have been hearing how a lethal threat to ash trees has been advancing ever closer to Wisconsin, and now its first appearance is documented in the southern part of our state. For some of us, this brings back memories of the decimation of our stately American elm trees 50 or so years ago, and how the death of our elms changed much of Wisconsin's rural countryside.

Here in northern Wisconsin ash trees make up a significant number of the hardwoods found in our forests. We should be prepared for their loss; it may take years, but we are told it is very likely this loss will happen.

The emerald ash borer, a very small but destructive beetle, metallic green in color, with a slender and narrow body about ½ inch long, causes the problem. A native of Asia, the EAB was first noticed in southeastern Michigan but is now found in portions of Ontario and the states of Maryland, Indiana, Virginia and Illinois. We are witnessing only the beginning of this serious infestation.

A beetle lays its eggs in the crevices of an ash tree's bark, and when hatched the larvae tunnel under the bark to feed. These tunnels restrict the movement of nutrients and water, eventually killing the tree, usually from the top down. Once infested, a tree will be dead in up to three years.

What does this infestation mean for those of us concerned with land preservation in northern Wisconsin? First of all, we must stop transporting firewood from one part of the state to another since this is a major way the borer spreads. Also, we might pause to ponder another message from this infestation—that our waters and forests are living ecosystems, easily affected by human behavior, both positive and negative. As members of the Bayfield Regional Conservancy we have said we are concerned about our roles as stewards of the land and as we work to preserve valued natural places we should inform ourselves of threats like the emerald ash borer and how our behavior helped bring this problem about.

Ash trees are only one species in our local forests, but the loss of any species, no matter what it is, brings changes to the rest. The familiar voices of earlier Wisconsinites like Aldo Leopold, Sigurd Olson, John Muir and others told us we are all interrelated in this system of life we call home, and we have an obligation to not only walk lightly on the land, but to consider what effects our steps have. ●

BRC White River Canoe Trip

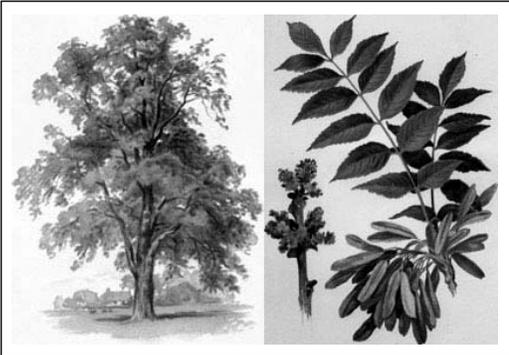
By Dennis McCann

The job of preserving special places is not always a picnic, but on its best days it can be just that.



In July, a party of BRC members and Friends of the White River engaged in a half-day paddle inspection of an 80-acre property on the White which was acquired earlier this year to protect it from development and allow continued access for soft recreation. Executive Director Ellen Kwiatkowski was joined on the expedition by Demaris Brinton and Theron O'Conner, both of Bayfield, Alistair Stewart of Chicago and Tom Heberlien of Madison. As was the case on an earlier paddle to the property in May, the trip was led by Bill Heart of Ashland, Chair of the Friends of the White River and a driving force in the acquisition.

The day, which began with a group breakfast at the always tasty Delta Diner, was as fine as July can offer, with uncluttered blue skies, and even occasional breezes for cooling and mosquito control. After a few hours of paddling on the White the group beached on the onetime farm and enjoyed lunch under the shade of a tall pine while Heart explained the property's former lives and expressed thanks for its coming protections. ●



An ash tree, with leaves and flowers

Allerio Easement (Continued from page 5)

district of Bayfield that is so popular with tourists, and the scenic panorama of Lake Superior that is visible from a ridgeline on the property.

In addition, the protected property provides habitat for many species of plants and animals.

As a result of the conservation easement, no industrial or commercial use of the property would be permitted, agricultural uses could only take place in the designated zone and no residential use or development would be allowed. Any timber harvest would be done in accordance with a stewardship plan prepared for the property by Living Forest Cooperative or through a third party certified sustainable forestry management plan.

All exactly as Allerio wished.

The easement might be viewed as Allerio's parting gift to the property she has owned for nearly 20 years, but which she has listed for sale in full expectation that the development limits will be viewed by buyers "as a

protection, rather than a restriction." She envisions a young couple buying the property and putting the orchard, which could easily be used for growing organic fruit, back in shape, or perhaps an older couple, "somebody who can appreciate the experience, maybe a different way of living.

"I don't know how that's going to turn out," she said, "but it would interest me as a buyer."

The process of obtaining a conservation easement was a bit more complicated and time-consuming than she had thought, Allerio said, but she credited BRC executive director Ellen Kwiatkowski with shepherding the process along to its happy conclusion.

"Generally speaking, I thought it went very well," Allerio said, and in the end the protection of her land into perpetuity was worth the effort.

"Yes, it's going to be so good. That makes me very happy." ●

White River Preservation (Continued from page 5)

The White River comprises roughly 60 miles of perennial rivers and streams, of which 44 are classified as outstanding and excellent resource waters by the DNR. Twenty miles are Class 1 trout waters, and the watershed is home to a diverse group of plant and wildlife that includes nine high priority conservation natural communities and many more species of "conservation concern."

That makes the purchase a natural for BRC and the other groups, said Ellen Kwiatkowski, executive director of the Conservancy.

"Development along this sensitive waterway would have detrimental effects on the river and the fish and wildlife that depend on it," she said. If and when the DNR is able to buy the property, the funds will be dedicated to a permanent White River Protection Revolving Loan Fund that could be used to protect additional river parcels.

The move is likely to please the many anglers who visit the White River annually. In the book *Exploring Wisconsin Trout Streams*, author and fisherman Steve Born wrote, "Trout anglers often speak of the White in almost reverent tones because it harkens back to a day when Wisconsin was on the country's frontier. You can still experience a little bit of that frontier danger by venturing into the sprawling and spooky Bibon Swamp, one of the largest undeveloped marshlands in the state, and casting for big trout."

While BRC has closed on the land, the groups are continuing to raise money to cover the \$150,000 acquisition cost, as the purchase was financed by Mr. Walker. To this end the Conservancy has raised approximately \$18,000 thus far. Bill Heart has agreed to take donors of \$5,000 or more on a personally guided fly-fishing trip on the White River. To donate to the White River Protection Fund or for more information, e-mail Hannah@brcland.org or call (715) 779-5263. ●

BRC MEMBER BENEFITS

Pathfinder: \$1-\$49

- Annual Recognition in our Newsletter
- Recognition in our Annual Report
- Invitation to Annual Meeting
- E-News Updates
- Volunteer Opportunities

Trail Blazer: \$50-\$99

- Above Benefits and:
- Invitations to Special Events

Ecologist: \$100-\$249

- Above Benefits and:
- Invitation to Field Trips

Conservationist: \$250-\$499

- Above Benefits and:
- Special Outings on Protected Sites

Environmentalist: \$500-\$999

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

Steward of the Land: \$1,000-\$2,499

- Above Benefits and:
- Bi-Annual Special thank you Reception

Legacy Circle: \$2,550 and above

- Above Benefits and:
- Invitation to an Annual thank you Dinner



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

In Honor

- In honor of Bill Route & Karin Kozie: Daniel & Emily Kozie
- In honor of Phil and Sheree Peterson: Stella & Kenneth Peterson, Lynne & Johannes von Trapp and Jan & Jim Leffler
- In honor of Warren Johnson Family: Genevieve Johnson & Mike Kinnee
- In honor of Ernie & Jan Korpela: Eric & Angela Korpela
- In honor of Georgia Rettmer: Rebecca Rettmer & Bert Sagara
- In honor of Ryan Durst: Mary Anna Durst
- In honor of Bill O'Connor's sister's wedding for Sally Fallon & Dick Arthur: Bill O'Connor & Krista Roys

In Memory

- In memory of Martin Hanson and Mark Musolf: given by Jo and Mike Bailey
- In memory of Mark Muslof: given by Malcom & Wendy McLean, Mark & Shari Eggleston, Jill & Jerry Martin, William Kraus, Ken Sherman & Holly Hanson, Mary Jean Huston, and Elizabeth Livermore
- In memory of Roger Dupke: given by Corinne Link
- In memory of Helen Kozie: given by Bill Route & Karin Kozie Family
- In memory of Kathy Logan: given by Shari and Mark Eggleston
- In memory of Marie Nelson: given by Bill and Nancy Bussey
- In memory of Gustav and Paula Hirsch: given by Virginia A. Hirsch and John E. Hirsch

Gifts in Support of the White River Preservation Project

- In honor of Jill Lorenz and Rudd Falconer's 30th wedding anniversary given by Jack Gunderson and Linda Jorgenson
- In memory of Kathy Logan by the Nedden-Durst Family

Apostle Islands Realty
Frank Hornberg Chapter
of Trout Unlimited
Delta Area Lakes
Association
Johnson Family
Foundation
Friends of the White
River
Dave & Kathy Allen
Carl & Pam Bauer
Richard Bell
Bob Benjamin
Richard & Evelyne Berge
Heidi Bitzer
Gregory Black
Michael Borden
Steven Born
Karen & Bill Boyd
Joseph Brady
Peter & Carla Bremner
Demaris Brinton &
Theron O'Connor
George & Dorota Bussey
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Jim Crandall
Gary & Karen Davidson
Cindy Dillenschneider &
Jason Maloney
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Richard & Christine
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Phil & Sheree Peterson
Sarah Lund & Dean Rau
Paul & Catherine Reichel
Ron & Phyllis Rep
William Rogers
Gwen Schultz
James & Judith Scoville
Jody Slocum &
Kurt Buetow
Carolyn Sneed
Jay & Judy Steffan
Phil Freeman &
Wendy Stein
Alistair & Ava Stewart
April Stone Dahl
Robert Swanson
Jane Swenson
Nicholas J. Tesser
Jay Thurston
Virginia Graves &
Peter Tropman
Janis & Don Tweedy
Phillip Wallace
Sally Probasco &
Topf Wells
Ms. Rebekah Willett
George Wisdom
Marilyn & Alan Youel
George Zickert

Membership Development

In May, we held an event at Tia Nelson's home in Madison to introduce potential new members to our organization. The event was well attended and has already brought BRC some new members. We would like to thank Tia and all the following co-hosts and sponsors for their help and support of this event.

Co-hosts:

Fred Arnold and
Barbara Arnold
Richard Briles Moriarty and
Sara Briles
Edith and Gene Brevold
Mark and Kate Bugher
Bill and Nancy Bussey
Arlen and Judy Christenson
Sheila Coyle Earl
Lloyd and Patrick Eagan
Nan Fey and Bill Cronon
Shari and Mark Eggleston
Senator Bob Jauch
Dennis and Barbara
McCann
Bruce and Lucy Moore
William O'Conner &
Krista Roys
Sue Remington
Remington Family Trust
John and Jo Anne Wall
Topf Wells

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Apple Hill Orchard
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Blue Vista Farm
Cooper Hill House
Donalee Designs
Grey Oak Guest House
Highland Valley Farm
PineHurst Inn
Reed Realty

**Food and beverages
provided by:**
Bayfield Inn
Big Water Coffee
Good Thyme Restaurant/
Fig & Fromage
Lotta's Lakeside Café
Old Rittenhouse Inn
South Shore Brewery
O'Bryon's Village Inn

Priority Conservation Areas *(continued from page 1)*

and nursery areas, rare plant communities, and a diversity of aquatic plants, waterfowl, and fish.

• **Iron River Watershed:** An area that is biologically rich, the Iron River watershed includes a diversity of habitats from the unique sand barrens of the upper watershed to the productive wetland areas of its lower reaches and the Iron Lake and Muskeg Creek areas. Its important conservation values include coastal wetlands, rare habitats, fish nursery areas, and abundant wildlife.

• **Marengo River Watershed:** The Marengo originates in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest north of Clam Lake and curves through lakes, wetlands, forest and high hills in the Gogebic Range before it joins the Brunsweler, and eventually empties into the Bad River and Lake Superior. Protecting the steep, unstable shorelines of the Marengo is important for maintaining water quality in the Brunsweler and Bad Rivers. The Watershed's conservation values include important habitat areas, rare species, cold water trout streams, species of conservation concern, and a migrating sea lamprey spawning area in its lower reaches.

• **South Shore Streams:** The area's bays, drowned river mouths, and uplands provide critical habitat for migrating birds, spawning habitat for fish and harbor rare plants, birds and insects. It includes Bark Bay and River, Cranberry River, Siskiwit Lake, River and Bay, Lost Creeks I and II and Lost Creek Bog, Flag River and Sand River. The Area provides valuable corridors for a vast number of species by connecting headwater reaches with rare coastal estuaries. South Shore Streams' spawning beds produce trout and salmon.

• **Upper Namekagon River Watershed:** The Upper Namekagon is known for its scenic beauty and habitat including rare boreal forest of global importance. The area provides quality habitat for migratory birds and plants and animals of conservation concern, and includes wild lakes and quality forests. Additionally, the Namekagon is a National Scenic River.

• **White River-Bibon Swamp:** Originating from spring fed lakes of the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest, the White River flows through the Great Bibon Swamp, Wisconsin's second largest wetland at 10,000 acres. The watershed encompasses wet conifer swamps, bogs, and extensive forests and supports a highly productive cold water fishery. It is home to rare and threatened plants, animals, migratory birds, brook and brown trouts, salmon and priority wetlands.

THREATS TO OUR CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

Conversion of land from agriculture and forestry land-use to residential and commercial use is the greatest threat facing the natural resources of the Bayfield Peninsula. The impacts of this threat include habitat fragmentation, habitat loss, habitat degradation, increased non-point source pollutants and loss of agricultural land. Non point source pollution is a significant threat to the areas water resources and aquatic habitats through increased sedimentation, turbidity, habitat degradation and fish contamination.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

BRC's goal is to protect, enhance, and restore the natural heritage values, water resources and working lands capacity of the Bayfield Peninsula in its Priority Conservation Areas. Our activities will include land acquisition, conservation easements, landowner management agreements and promoting best land management practices as well as implementing a program of targeted landowner outreach. Outreach programs will include workshops on conservation options and best management practices for forestry and agriculture.

BRC will additionally promote policies and funding mechanisms that conserve natural resources and support the economic growth at the local level. This includes encouraging the establishment of local farmland preservation programs with sustainable funding mechanisms and reaching out to key decision makers such as Town Boards and Comprehensive Planning Committees to raise awareness of BRC and to convey the findings of our planning efforts.

Our next steps will include determining the specific sites we should begin focusing on in our PCAs and to raise additional funds to hire the staff required to implement the plan. It is clear that in order to be more proactive and successful in our efforts, BRC is compelled to hire a full-time conservation staff person.

FUTURE PLANS

Bayfield Regional Conservancy has just ramped up efforts to identify its priority areas in Douglas County (thanks to a DNR river planning grant) and will be seeking funding for Sawyer and Ashland Counties during the coming year. ●

Wisconsin Farmland *(continued from page 4)*

funds until it completes paying for the easements already purchased through the program. Now that state money is available, it is our hope that the Bayfield program can continue and that additional Farmland Preservation Programs will be initiated in other areas throughout our region and the State.

This state funding program, administered by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), will target cooperating local entities (local governments or non-profit organizations) for the purchase of easements from willing landowners. Local entities purchase the easements and may be reimbursed for up to 50 percent of the easement cost by the purchase of agricultural conservation easements (PACE) program. The state and local entities will then be co-holders of the easement. The remaining 50 percent can be funded in full or through a combination of the following: a local program, a donation from the landowner or NRCS's Farm and Rangeland Preservation Program via the US Farm Bill. In order to qualify for PACE, a property must be located in a county farmland preservation plan.

Agricultural conservation easements ensure that productive agricultural land remains available for future generations of farmers. The easement prohibits development that would make the land unavailable or unsuitable for agricultural use. Easements are voluntary and allow a landowner to be compensated for limiting development on his or her farmland. The easements are also permanent and are carried over to subsequent landowners if the property is sold. In other words, the farm will forever be a farm.

A PACE Council has just been formed to advise the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection on administration of the PACE component of the Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative. BRC's Executive Director, Ellen Kwiatkowski, has been asked to serve on the Council, which will assist with program development, recommend guidance for funding distribution, and provide a liaison role among the department, local government, land trusts, landowners, and other partners. Once the council more fully develops the program, DATCP will begin receiving proposals, likely sometime in 2010. ●

NOTES & REMINDERS FOR MEMBERS & SUPPORTERS

- **BRC Membership Renewal**

For all of you renewing membership in BRC in the fall, you will be receiving your renewal letter in the next couple of weeks. If you would like to help us avoid paying for extra mail, you can send in your renewal in the attached envelop. Membership expiration dates are listed above your name on the mailing label of the newsletter. Thank you!

- **Are you Seasonal?**

Every time we have a mailing, we tend to get lots of letters back stamped "temporarily away." If you have a seasonal address, please let us know so we can update our data base and avoid having to spend double postage on mailings. If you prefer receiving certain mailings only by e-mail, let us know that as well and we will put you on our e-mail only list for the future.

- **Sustaining Contributor Program**

As membership renewal time is around the corner, please consider making monthly donations to support our mission. The benefit to you as a donor is that it is easier to make a small donation regularly and plan it into a monthly budget than it is to send a large donation once or twice each year. The benefit to us is that our support continues without the cost of renewal mailings, reminders and staff hours so more time and energy can be put into protecting land.

To make a monthly donation, we can set up an automatic withdrawal from your personal account to our account. This is a convenient, secure and less wasteful way for donors to support BRC. The amount you specify is transferred each month with the proceeds going to the Bayfield Regional Conservancy. There is no need for writing checks or receiving extra mailings, we know and you know your donation will be there to support our mission. If you decide it is not working for you, it is just as easy to stop the process.

Please consider becoming a sustaining contributor if you can. Call Hannah Hudson (715-779-5263) or e-mail her at hannah@brcland.org to find out the details of how to arrange a monthly transfer to BRC. Thank you for your continued support of the Bayfield Regional Conservancy and for confidence in our organization and mission.

POETRY

The Newsletter

Thursday afternoon
Seated in the sun
Cats upon my lap
Reading of the raven
Who shared eggs with Ellen

The meaning of life____
Turning the page to find
Two of my heroes in print
I shall put their memories
In my Journal
Mark, a sweet gentleman
Sorely missed and
Martin who snoozed next to me
At Board Meetings
Did he not also send copies
Of his wildlife videos to two
Of our grandchildren—who
Now know what it means
For a deer to "shed"
Souls of our Northern haven
Their memories made me a poet

—Jo Bailey



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Fall 2009

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 news from your*



Photo Contest

The first annual BRC Photo Contest was a great success! Our three winners are Carol Seago, Denise Dupras, and Bob Mulcahy. Their photos will be shown on our new website (www.brcland.org) on November 15. Take a look!



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