



Landscapes

Glacial Lakes Conservancy's Mission is to permanently preserve and protect land and water resources for future generations.

VOL 24 ISSUE 1 SPRING/SUMMER 2021

Inside this issue:

- Twenty-five Year Timeline
- Wildlife Data Collection
- Hunner Preserve
- Upcoming Events

Board of Directors

Cynthia Northup
President

Peter Pittner
Vice President

Ryan Zinkel
Secretary

Jeanette Wierzbach
Treasurer

Members:

Hilary Hawley
Chris Krieg
Scott Larson
Andrew Morris
Elizabeth Victor
Greg Zahn
Steve Victor, Honorary
Director

Staff

Jennifer Born Rutten
Executive Director

Abbey Vizelka
Land Project Coordinator

GLC celebrates 25th Anniversary and continues to build on the legacy of our founders



GLC Executive Director Jennifer Born Rutten and Manitowoc Mayor Justin Nickels plant Tamarack trees at GLC property Christel Woods and Wetlands for Arbor Day 2021

GLACIAL LAKES CONSERVANCY welcomes our 25th anniversary of being in the forever business with its continued drive to protect and preserve land and water resources for generations to enjoy in the future. I am fortunate to join GLC at an exciting time as we proudly own five properties, hold 26 conservation easements on private lands, and watch over these 1,804 acres in five counties. I am looking forward to help create another 25 years with GLC in growth and community partnerships. GLC is looking at new ways to reach communities, partners, members, and donors in all five of our counties, so together we can be land guardians. Exploring ideas to

interact with land owners and communities with hands-on experiences on the trails and sharing research and progress on lands that have restoration will be a priority.

Mike and Kristi Sorenson, James and Jean Tobin, Lester Laack, Terrie Cooper, and Beth and Gary Kiela paved the way early on in 1996 for GLC to stay committed to permanent land protection through private landowner conservation, stewardship of our preserves and easements, advocacy, and community leadership. With the generosity of our communities we will continue this practice.

Returning to my hometown armed with experiences in business and nature has me motivated to continue the GLC's founders' legacy of land conservation. My first three months have been fantastic - getting out and meeting land owners and partners. Happy to get to know more of you- you can find me on our website! Stay tuned for news on our 25th Celebration on October 9th at our signature Sheboygan land - Willow Creek Preserve - where there will be food and fun, interactive educational hikes, and music.

Thank you to all of you who have helped get GLC to this celebratory 25 years of existence!

- Jennifer Born Rutten, Executive Director

Co-Founded a Land Trust and launched a career: Terrie Cooper

Terrie Cooper is currently Community Conservation Director at Door County Land Trust, which she joined in 1999. We interviewed her in early May 2021.

What influenced you to co-found Sheboygan Area Land Conservancy (SALC), now GLC?

I had moved into the Black River area, north of Kohler-Andrae State Park, while an Environmental Educator at Riveredge

and Maywood Nature Centers. A beautiful wooded lot in my neighborhood had been sold to a developer, and one day the trees started coming down. I watched the destruction with tears in my eyes. A neighbor (Jean Tobin) came over and hugged me. Long story short, the two of us and six others with similar concerns, formed SALC!

Terrie Cooper Continued on PAGE 3

Timeline spread

Terrie Cooper

Continued from page 1

Land Trusts were a fairly new idea, but I had friends at Trusts and knew Gathering Waters (GW) would help with grants to get started. One of my personal concerns was the nearby undeveloped Lake Michigan shoreline; those old growth pines reminded me of Door County where I grew up.

Together, across the world, we are leaving a legacy of conservation lands for future generations, and it makes me feel so proud to be part of these efforts.

What was your "job" for the fledgling Trust?

I was the ecologist who put together a booklet of native trees, shrubs and plants for landowners. Back then there was not as much info on that subject. Of course, with land protection as our priority, all eight of us attended many a conference to get the professional support we needed. Little did I know I was building a new career in the process. At a GW conference I met the Door County Trust Director, and in 1999 became their second staff person. As an educator at my nature center jobs, you'd hope to inspire both children and adults to appreciate



Terrie Cooper, one of the founders of Sheboygan Area Land Conservancy (SALC), now Glacial Lakes Conservancy

conservation, but it's a long and uncertain process. In the land trust business, it's very gratifying work as you know the impact immediately of your work, as conservation easements and protected lands are there forever!

Do you have a favorite SALC/GLC event that comes to mind?

Two come to mind: The celebration of our first easement, the Ann Knauf Trust, adjacent to the Kettle Moraine State Forest. Was a great turnout; speeches, land walks, info tables, silent auction and dinner! The other was GLC's 10th Anniversary, held December 2006 at Field to Fork in Sheboygan; six of us founders

were able to attend and were honored by the 50+ in attendance.

Can you comment on any of our current public preserves?

We'd initially concentrated mainly on private conservation easements. But Amsterdam Dunes near Cedar Grove stands out to me, first of all due to my passion for undeveloped lakeshore. But it's a great example of working together with government: county, state or federal. That has really launched land trusts into a new realm.

Any feelings on accomplishments of Land Trusts over the last 25+ years?

Public/private partnerships! My current work focuses on land acquisition and securing state and federal land acquisition grants funds to match with private dollars. Working with our state and federal grant partners has allowed us to grow exponentially in our protection efforts and as new grant funds become available, our partners reach out to us looking for projects that meet our mutual conservation goals. It's such a win-win, Land Trusts statewide have been so fortunate to match private funds raised with The Knowles Nelson state stewardship grant funds and a host of federal grants. Together, across the world, we are leaving a legacy of conservation lands for future generations, and it makes me feel so proud to be part of these efforts. I am so grateful to have been part of the founding of Glacial Lakes Conservancy.

Wildlife Resources in Natural Areas

by Gary S. Casper, Ph.D

LAND TRUSTS EVERYWHERE are on a mission to preserve and protect land, water, and natural resources for future generations. Glacial Lakes Conservancy (GLC) is creating a legacy of permanently protecting natural areas that enhance our regional quality of life and natural resources, including bountiful fish and wildlife that enhance the beauty and diversity of our communities. To accomplish this, land trusts assess what fish and wildlife species and plant communities are most at risk and most feasible and worthwhile to preserve, in order to direct scarce resources towards highest value outcomes. This requires

data – data on what species are present, where they are present, where they have disappeared, and what their critical habitat needs are.



The Blanding's Turtle. (Photo by G.S. Casper).



Gary Casper holds a Blanding's Turtle. The Turtle is a resident at the Willow Creek Preserve, and has very particular nesting requirements. Females breed well beyond 60 years old, but only lay about 6 eggs per year, most of which do not survive.

At the Willow Creek Preserve GLC is engaging with wildlife biologists to conduct surveys and perform fish and

Wildlife Resources Continued on PAGE 4

Hunner Preserve

Thanks to Mark and Sally Hunner, Hunner Preserve becomes the fifth preserve and GLC's first in Kewaunee County



Sally and Mark Hunner

IN 1989, A GREEN AND WHITE POSTER on the wall of a pizza place in Michicot became the start of Mark and Sally Hunner's love for a 55-acre tree farm in the town of Carlton.

With a crystal clear spring-fed stream meandering through native conifer, hardwoods, and forested wetlands, and a section of plantations with planted red and white pine and cedars, the landscape architect in Mark knew this was a magical place. Mark and Sally have watched their children and now grandchildren grow on this property with family skiing and hikes, wading through the stream, studying the creatures and testing the water purity.

The 40 acres have been enrolled with the DNR of Wisconsin Managed Forest Land Program since 2004 and will terminate at the end of 2028. They have managed the tree plantations with three selective cuttings and some invasive treatments. The Hunners allowed nature to come back to areas that were manipulated by people, and those areas are thriving.

In 2020, Mark and Sally met one of GLC's dedicated volunteers who also has a conservation easement on his property in Manitowoc County. He described GLC and how our organization could help

the Hunner Family with their goal of preserving 40 acres in Kewaunee County. After discussing it with their children, Mark and Sally contacted GLC about donating these magical acres to Glacial Lakes Conservancy and explained that they wanted future generations to enjoy them as they had.

On December 29th, 2020, Rose Phillips met with Mark and Sally to sign over the deed to GLC creating Hunner Preserve, Glacial Lakes Conservancy's 5th preserve and our first in Kewaunee County. Our staff is ecstatic to be on the property looking for pileated woodpeckers, great horned owls, brook trout, green frogs and many other wildlife species that use this property for part of the year or call this place home.



Hunner Preserve

Wildlife Resources

Continued from page 3

wildlife habitat assessments to improve property management plans. These assessments can also avoid harm from accidentally impacting rare species that were not known to be present, such as the recently discovered Blanding's Turtle. The Willow Creek planning team can now be sure to include the food, shelter and nesting resources that the turtles need to survive into property planning. Experts can also engage community volunteers to assist with surveys to instill a new appreciation for nature in the community as trained volunteers see animals close-up and get to know their habits.

Monitoring how natural communities and rare species respond to preservation actions is also important for quality control. The success of habitat preservation can be measured by the types and numbers of fish and wildlife species that are preserved. Ideally this increases over time as a measure of success – such as fewer invasive non-native species, and more rare or sensitive native species.



Possible creation of oak savanna habitat at the Willow Creek Preserve may attract the showy Red-headed Woodpecker, which is in decline due to widespread losses of the oak savanna habitat that GLC is helping to preserve. (public domain photo)

Timeline spread



529 Ontario Avenue
Sheboygan, WI 53081
920-273-1143
info@glaciallakes.org

Glacial Lakes Conservancy is a private, nonprofit land trust that provides enduring solutions for land conservation in Wisconsin's Lake Michigan Basin and serves Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Calumet, Kewaunee, and Fond du Lac Counties. Contributions to further our efforts are appreciated.

Address Service Requested



Upcoming GLC Events:

- August 8th, 2021
Pollinator Walk Bella Terra
- September 12th, 2021
**Guided Grandparents/Grandchild Hike
Willow Creek Preserve**
- October 9th, 2021
**GLC 25th Anniversary Celebration
Willow Creek Preserve**

Please refer to our website for more details on these events and more!



Thank you to all who supported us this spring with our Mother's Day Herb Basket Sale and Auction purchases.

GLC thanks outgoing Board members **Michael Slattery and Mary Kohl** for their years of service. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

Special thanks to those who helped with the content and editing of this issue of **Landscapes**:

Abbey Vizelka
Mary Kohl
Jennifer Born Rutten

Cynthia Northup
Hilary Hawley
Dr. Gary Casper
Martha Schott