



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

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Executive Director

Rose Phillips

Land Project Coordinator

Abbey Vizelka

## Willow Creek Preserve- A great community effort!

This October, the Willow Creek property (formerly known as the Schuchardt Farm) was officially acquired by Glacial Lakes Conservancy (GLC) from the City of Sheboygan. The evolution of this property transfer and preservation plan has been a multiple year process involving many important team players including: GLC, City of Sheboygan, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), and many invested government and community stakeholders.

Funding for the purchase of this property was secured from the Sheboygan River Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) settlement. These funds were established with the purpose of restoring natural resources that have been previously degraded by the discharge of hazardous substances into areas such as the Sheboygan River.

This property includes 140 acres of undeveloped land positioned west of Taylor Drive,



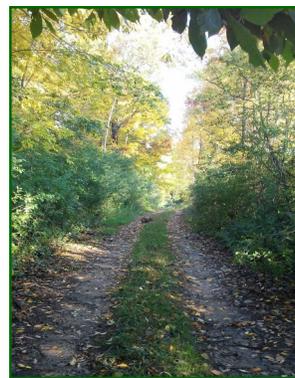
between Indiana Avenue and Erie Avenue. Willow Creek traverses this property and is a tributary to the Sheboygan River. This prominent feature has given rise to the name Willow Creek Preserve.

GLC's intention is to protect and restore this property's ecological value and to allow passive recreation for public enjoyment.



A hawk soars in the sky above the oaks

Currently, there are footpath trails that exist



Old farm path on the property

as remnants of old farm access paths. These trails will be loosely maintained and eventually expanded upon to support gentle exploration of the various habitats and wildlife that can be found here.

Future plans for this property have been, and will continue to be, guided by stakeholder input and will include but are not limited to: restoring the creek to support natural and native fish reproduction, invasive plant species management, wetland protection, and the addition of pollinator habitat.

With time, sustainable planning, and community partnership and support, this property will provide an urban oasis that will be forever protected and available for public enjoyment of current and future generations.

## Recap of Events and Celebrations

### SUNDAY DRIVE

Over two dozen people attended our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Sunday Drive Event which was recently held on a brisk, but sunny fall day. Attendees enjoyed a scenic drive between four property destinations. At each stopping point a land-



Tour of the Willow Creek property

owner or volunteer was present to explain the property features and offer

an opportunity to explore the conserved land. The final destination was a park shelter to enjoy a picnic style dinner and socialization. Thank you to the landowners who shared their property with the public for this event and everyone who participated!

### Fall Land Walk at Joe & Rita's Acres

In September, approximately 25 outdoor enthusiasts braved the usual September mosquito boom to explore Joe & Rita's Acres in Elkhart Lake.



Entering Joe & Rita's Acres

This seasonal Land Walk event was co-hosted by Gathering Waters as part of their Land Trust Days campaign, an effort to promote land trust events around the state of Wisconsin. As the land owner of this property lead the group around, he talked enthusiastically about the numerous tree species that he and his parents before him have planted on this restored sand and gravel pit site. This 40 acre parcel is packed full of surprising micro habitats that support a wide variety of plants and animals.



Participants explore the property

### 2018 Volunteer Appreciation

In August, we held a celebration to show our appreciation for our dedicated volunteers. Non-profit organizations like ours depend on people who care. **Thank you volunteers!**



Gathering to celebrate participation and progress

Special thanks to Mary Kohl (VP of GLC's Board of Directors) and Randy Brotz for sponsoring this event, and the owners of the unique, historic Quasius Lime Kilns property venue for hosting.

### Windway Property Land Celebration

In August, we celebrated the Windway property conservation easement that was established in September 2017.

Thank you Leslie Kohler for being mindful of the conservation value of



your land and taking direct action to protect it for future generations!

GLC's Director, Rose Phillips, presents a plaque to Leslie Kohler

### 2018 Donor Recognition

In July, we spent an evening at the lovely horse farm and property of Joan & Richard Waak, taking a moment to recognize our most impactful donors.



Dick offered wagon ride tours of the

Observing the land by way of a hay wagon ride

Newton property and Joan offered highlights of her beautiful and well trained horses, including an impressive dressage presentation. We thank the landowners for hosting this event and board member Chris Krieg for sponsoring it. And of course thank you to our donors—the reason for the event and our success!



Attendees enjoy food and good company

## Changes to our Board and Staff...



Rose Phillips, current Executive Director of GLC

### New Executive Director...

**Rose Phillips** is now serving as GLC's permanent Executive Director. She has been serving as Interim Director for GLC since October of 2017 and is excited to continue working to protect and preserve local land and water resources. "I look forward to further carrying out the mission and vision of GLC and continuing to build on my relationships with staff, volunteers, members, land owners, and the community. I honor all the work and efforts of my predecessors and I am extremely thankful for this opportunity to commit to GLC and help move it forward."

~ Rose Phillips

### Thank you to our former Executive Director...

We would like to express our gratitude to **Mary Piehl** who served as GLC's Executive Director for over three years. Her dedication and passion for her work was evident throughout her tenure. Mary was instrumental in accomplishing several acquisitions and conservation easements, including Amsterdam Dunes Preserve, Birchwood Lake Nature Preserve, Willow Creek Preserve, and the Windway property. We are grateful for the time and talent she gave to GLC.



Mary Piehl, former Executive Director of GLC (2013-2017)

### New member of the Board of Directors... We welcome Hilary Hawley to the board!



Hilary Hawley, newest member of GLC's Board of Directors

Hilary brings to GLC her education and experience in management, marketing, communications, and outreach. She has served on other boards in the community, including Windway Corp., Sheboygan Jaycees, and Nourish Farm. Thank you for joining our conservation team Hilary! We know that you will bring value and fresh perspectives to the Board.

## Outgoing Board members—Thank you Elizabeth and Dan!

**Elizabeth Phillips-smith** served two three-year terms on the Board of Directors and also on the Finance Committee and as chair of the Board Development committee. Elizabeth was actively



Above: Elizabeth Phillips-smith

involved in financial discussions and decisions and new member and staff recruitment and development. She also regularly participated in GLC's events and activities. We are grateful for her years of service and look forward to her continued engagement and involvement in other capacities.

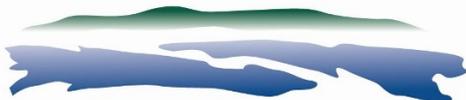
**Dan Geraghty** also served two three-year terms on our Board as well as serving as the Treasurer. He also utilized his skills and talents by

serving on the Executive Committee as well as chair of the Finance Committee. We are thankful



Above: Dan Geraghty

to Dan for volunteering his time and sharing his skills to assist and support GLC's mission.



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*Glacial Lakes Conservancy is a private, non-profit, 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.*

**Address Service Requested**

Special thanks to Martha Schott, Fred & Gail Tyszka, Stacy Hron, and members of the Outreach Committee for editing this issue of Landscapes.

**Other News...**

**In Memory of...**

A longtime member and supporter of GLC, **Martha Stoltenberg** passed away on September 7, 2018. She had a great love for nature and enthusiasm for conservation. She volunteered for many local organizations and was involved with GLC for over twenty years. We want to express our appreciation for her loyal support and engagement within the community. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the family.

**We have a new Website!**

Check it out at:  
www.glaciallakes.org

**United Day of Caring**



Above: Volunteers from the Kohler Co. and GLC's Land Project Coordinator, Abbey, on the right

Thank you to the Kohler Company employees who volunteered their time to remove invasive spotted knapweed at the Grasshopper Hill Preserve in Elkhart Lake.

**Your contributions make a difference!**

GLC is a non-profit organization and therefore, we depend on our members and volunteers to contribute their time, talent, and treasure. We rely on your sustained contributions to help ensure the protection and preservation of the open spaces and scenic places that we all love so much. Please consider making a gift online at [www.glaciallakes.org](http://www.glaciallakes.org) or watch for our year-end appeal letter coming soon. Any and all contributions are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support!

