Windway—Welcome to the Family!

An additional 39.6 acres of land will now be permanently preserved under conservation easement for current and future generations to enjoy. Located within the Pigeon River watershed of the Lake Michigan Basin, this land consists of forested flood plain (identified by the DNR as a state recognized wetland), managed prairie, southern mesic forest, and vernal ponds. The Windway property provides valuable habitat for many animal species, including Steelhead Salmon which have been spotted swimming in the river. Whitetail deer, wild turkey, and over thirty bird species have also been known to find food and shelter here. In addition to the animal diversity, over twenty native wildflower species have also been documented within the property boundaries, including: trout lilies, marsh marigolds, and spring beauties (as pictured below). This easement compliments two nearby properties also permanently preserved by GLC, the “Bur Oak” and “Bella Terra” properties, thus providing further protection of the Pigeon River corridor.

Spring Beauty (Claytonia virginica)

Land walk on the Windway property in spring 2017
We are pleased to announce the addition of two new members, and one returning member to our Board of Directors: Melanie Romas, Jeanette Wierzbach and Chris Krieg respectively.

Melanie Romas is employed as a Leadership Development Facilitator and coach for Living as a Leader. She has devoted herself in numerous capacities to non-profits through the years. We have no doubt that her talents and expertise are sure to be a great asset to GLC.

Jeanette Wierzbach brings to the board substantial experience as an accountant with 25 years of employment at Sheboygan Paint Company. Jeanette is involved with Sheboygan Youth Sailing and the Sheboygan Yacht Club. Welcome aboard Jeanette!

Chris Krieg returns to the Board bringing with her 14 years of experience with GLC. She has served various roles, including past presidency. Chris is a strong advocate for land stewardship and brings enthusiasm to projects and discussions. We are excited to have her back in this capacity.

We would also like to thank John Durbow and Bill Beverly who left the Board in 2017, but remain involved with GLC.

We are honored to have such knowledgeable and talented participants at the board level. If you, or someone you know is interested in serving on our board or a committee, please contact Rose at: 920-273-1143 or rose@glaciallakes.org.

Willow Creek is a five-mile stream that serves as a tributary to the Sheboygan River. The Creek traverses this 133 acres of undeveloped land just west of Taylor Drive, between Indiana Avenue and Erie Avenue.

Both the creek and the Sheboygan River provide rare habitat that is known to support three species of naturally reproducing salmon and trout, as well as other rare animals and plants.

This large block of intact forest and wetlands are ecologically significant and unique to the city of Sheboygan. This land has the potential to serve as a peaceful oasis for local wildlife and human alike. We look forward to sharing more details about the progress of this land acquisition and restoration plans in the very near future.

Willow Creek traverses the property

Willow Creek meanders underneath an old railroad

Willow Creek traverses the property

On the Horizon—The Willow Creek Preserve

Willow Creek meanders underneath an old railroad

On the Horizon—The Willow Creek Preserve
**Why a Conservation Easement?**
A personal story from Gary Drohman

Mary and I own a 58-acre hobby farm where we have lived since 1971. When we purchased the farm there was a mature climax forest of about 15 acres with many sugar maples. We had zero experience making maple syrup but a friend suggested we try it. Forty five years later, we are still lured to the sugar shack each spring.

I bought Mary an old Manitowoc crane dragline and dug a one-acre pond in 1981-82.

I added two more ponds and a dam which flooded a few acres of swamp woods. Dozens of beautiful wood ducks are raised each year in the flooded timber. They spend summers scouting around the pond gobbling duckweed. Our yellow lab can’t figure out why I don’t shoot some for him.

Over time, we planted over 20,000 tree seedlings, almost half of them by hand. Oh, how our kids complained 35 years ago, planting seedlings in this clay soil. Now they take pride as they walk the trails with their own children and friends.

We now have about 30 acres of trees, 8 acres of wetlands, and 1.5 acres of prairie flowers. I feel richly blessed to enjoy nature here and hope this is where I can spend my remaining years. I am happy we chose to donate a conservation easement to Glacial Lakes Conservancy. GLC will protect our farm from development and allow us to use a portion for agriculture. If sold, the conservation easement restrictions will always remain on the deed.

Gary Drohman
(marygaryd@gmail.com)

**Events**

**Winter Solstice Celebration**
A fun time was had by all who attended the 2017 winter solstice celebration at Kay’s Ledge in Fond du Lac county!

The cold didn’t stop these folks from enjoying the Winter Solstice celebration

**Land walk at Christel Woods**
Saturday February 17th 2018 at 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. This is a perfect time of year to explore this property that is otherwise seasonally wet. Optional socializing to follow at Mr. Lucky’s Charcoal Haus. Directions to the property can be found at www.glaciallakes.org

Volunteers attempt to get a closer look at the wonders of the property

**Grasshopper Hill Bonfire**
Join us on April 14th 2018 at 1:00 pm to help gather and burn cut branches of invasive shrubs and then stay for s’mores and socializing.

Volunteers of all kinds & sizes are always appreciated

Volunteers work to burn branches from invasive shrubs
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. Contributions to further our efforts are appreciated.

Save the Date—May 6th, 2018

Mark your calendar for our annual dinner auction and plan to join us for an evening of delicious food, great company, an engaging and educational keynote speaker, and an opportunity to win unique silent auction items. This year’s event will be held at the beautiful Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, WI. Sponsorship and donation opportunities are still available. For more information please contact Rose Phillips at: (920)273-1143 or rose@glaciallakes.org.

Jim Perry from Wisconsin’s Green Fire—Voices for Conservation will be our keynote speaker for the evening. He will share with us his personal experiences with land conservation. He will also discuss Green Fire’s mission to “support the conservation legacy of Wisconsin by promoting science-based management of Wisconsin’s natural resources.”

You can find out more about James Perry and Wisconsin’s Green Fire at: wigreenfire.org

Remember to “like” and “follow” Glacial Lakes Conservancy on Facebook.