



Glacial Lakes Conservancy's Grasshopper Hill Preserve

We are thrilled to report that at the end of September 2011, Glacial Lakes Conservancy successfully acquired and established our Grasshopper Hill Preserve! Since 2006, GLC has been working to create a 25-acre nature preserve from a glacial remnant to conserve its wildlife habitat in the Town of Rhine in Sheboygan County. This project represents GLC's second preserve and fifth conservation project in the Elkhart Lake area in the last ten years. Family members **Noelle Jonas** and **Mark Meeusen** of the **Fischer Farmstead** agreed to work with GLC because of the vision they shared with their mother, the late **LaVern Meeusen**, to protect the farm's steep-sided, wooded hill from future development for generations to come.



stewardship and also the long-term stewardship of the property. We are grateful to have received letters of support from the **Village of Elkhart Lake**, the **Town of Rhine**, and the **Elkhart Lake Improvement Association** along with generous small and large individual donations – and many welcome new members – and a **Sheboygan County Stewardship Program** grant award that made this project a reality.

Glacial Lakes Conservancy and the **Lake Michigan Shorelands Alliance** has identified the Elkhart Lake Area and nearby northern Kettle Moraine as two of its Conservation Priority sites to preserve land for habitat and to protect water quality because of the fragile nature of steeply-sloping kettles and kames, gravel and till soils, and waters of the area.



By spring 2011, with a signed option to purchase, a \$398,000 campaign was launched that included purchase price, acquisition costs, initial

Photographs
 Above: View of Grasshopper Hill, a glacial remnant of kettle and kame topography. Left: GLC's Land Team members Shirley Griffin and Tony Smith take a field walk to study the property before purchase in 2011. Right: Fischer Farm with Grasshopper Hill in the background. Below: A photo merge panorama of the Drohman's Manitou Maples property, now preserved with GLC.



Gary & Mary Drohman's Manitou Maples Conservation Easement

Town of Newton
 Manitowoc County

GLC is pleased to announce that **Gary and Mary Drohman** donated a Conservation Easement to Glacial Lakes Conservancy for their property, known as Manitou Maples, at the end of November 2011. Their farmstead, barns and horse pasture is located in the rolling topography of the Silver Creek corridor in the Town of Newton.

The Drohmans wanted to maintain in perpetuity the wildlife habitat of open water, forest and wetland and prevent the property from any future subdivision and development. Their protected beautiful rolling landscape has a sugar maple/beech dominated mature woods, a floodplain forest, seasonal stream, associated wetlands and ephemeral ponds, (Continued)

LTA: Big Gains in Voluntary Land Conservation Despite Recession

Land trusts conserve 10 Million U.S. Acres

The first census of land trusts in five years found 10 million new acres conserved nationwide since 2005, outpacing the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, a major federal conservation program, which added just over 500,000 acres but saw a 38% funding cut.

The National Land Trust Census, released by the Land Trust Alliance (LTA), shows that voluntarily protected land increased 27 percent between 2005 and 2010. In Wisconsin, land trusts conserved 119,960 acres between 2005 and 2010, a 56% increase in land protected. The census is online at www.lta.org/census.

A total of 47 million acres—an area over twice the size of all the national parks in the contiguous United States—are now protected by land trusts. A greater percentage of the new acreage comes through local and state land trusts like Glacial Lakes Conservancy.

Land Trusts See Increased Budgets and Endowments, Add Staff and Volunteers in Down Economy

Over the last 5 years, GLC more than doubled the private lands it conserves, aided by the addition of staff in 2005 to meet the growing interest of landowners looking for a local land trust. Landowners like **Bill and Andrea Iwen**, who wanted to preserve their Kewaunee River corridor property adjacent to the state's C.D. Basadny Fish & Wildlife Area.

And landowners like **Gary and Mary Drohman** of Newton or **Mary Lydolph** of Elkhart Lake, who created projects to preserve the associated habitats of their mature woods, open waters, wetlands, and grasslands as well as the productivity of their farmland.

During that same period, GLC also accepted its first gift of land, the **Wm. F. Christel Memorial Woods & Wetlands Preserve** in Valders. This foray into land ownership paved the way for a successful campaign in 2011 to purchase and establish GLC's new 25-acre **Grasshopper Hill Preserve**.

An enhanced tax deduction for conservation easement donations has helped America's land trusts work with farmers, ranchers and other modest-income landowners to sustain a remarkable pace of more than one million acres protected by conservation easements each year! But if Congress allows this incentive to expire at the end of 2011, fewer landowners will receive tax benefits from the generous donation of development rights on their land.

H.R. 1964/S. 339: Glacial Lakes Conservancy thanks Rep(s) James Sensenbrenner, Tammy Baldwin, Gwen Moore and Ron Kind for being among the 262 House and 11 Senate co-sponsors of H.R. 1964/S. 339, bills to make this important conservation tax incentive permanent. That's more co-sponsors than any other tax bill in Congress! We encourage Rep(s) Tom Petri and Reid Ribble and Senators Ron Johnson and Herb Kohl to join them as co-sponsors of this important legislation.

Other findings of the new National Land Trust Census include:

- Land trusts saw a **70% increase in volunteers** from the previous 5-year period.
- Since 2005, there are **57% more paid employees and contractors at Wisconsin land trusts**.
- **Operating budgets for land trusts are up 36% since 2005**. State and local trusts **nearly tripled operating endowments** in five years ensuring that land trust-protected land stays protected.
- **The preservation of family farms and ranchlands is now a priority for 61% of trusts**, up from 21% that listed farmland as the top priority in 2005.
- **Urban parks, gardens or open spaces is now a priority for 27 % of trusts**, a threefold increase over respondents in 2005.



Closing Day, September 27, 2011. GLC board president Kenn Buelow, Fischer Farm owners Mark Meeusen and Noelle Jonas, with board member Chris Krieg and director Vickie Hall are thrilled with the completion of the new Grasshopper Hill Preserve.

Glacial Lakes Conservancy Membership / Donation Form

Individual / Family

- \$35
- \$50
- \$100
- \$250
- \$1000 Preservation Partner
- Other _____

Business

- \$250
- \$500
- \$1,000
- \$2,500
- \$5,000+
- Other _____

- Contact me, please! I'd like to volunteer my time.
- I am a property owner interested in preservation.
- Please contact me about the Preservation Partners, a gift of stocks or land, or including GLC in my will.

Name _____

In honor of: _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Thank you to our current GLC Preservation Partner members

Richard & Kristen Bemis*
 Dr. Benjamin & Kathleen Broghammer
 Mary O'Leary & Kenn Buelow*
 Michael & Stephanie Burke*
 Robert & Katherine Chesebro
 Louis & Michele Gentine
 Shirley Griffin*
 Dr. William & Andrea Iwen
 Steve & Mary Jo Knauf*
 Ray & Christine Krieg*
 Mary Lydolph*
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 Joseph & Theresa Suttner
 James & Jean Tobin*
 George & Jane Twohig
 Dae Jean Jahnke & Russell Vogel
 Mary Ann Windsor
 Dr. Richard & Nancy Windsor

* denotes Charter Members

GLC received the following donations in memory of

Delores "Dee" Remington

Joyce and Richard Jordan

Peter R. Bachman

Mary Larson

Winifred Spring

*Kristi & Mike Sorenson
 Hermans & Associates, CPAs*

Paul Lydolph

*Bradley & Heather Neils
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 David Andrews
 Mary Ann Windsor
 Barbara Werner
 Renée & Dale Voskuil
 Dennis & Nancy Raeder
 Steven & Bev Rautmann
 Donald & Jane Lydolph
 Richard & Abbie Willits
 Mike & Kristi Sorenson*

The Glacial Lakes Conservancy Annual Dinner on December 4th

was a wonderful success once again! A delicious dinner at **Margaux Bistro** was served up and guests learned about the history and ecology of the **Horicon National Wildlife Refuge** from our Special Guest Speaker ornithologist and naturalist, **Bill Volkert**.

Bill discussed the glacial geography and cultural significance of the Horicon Marsh, which is an example of an extinct post-glacial lake, and is subsequently designated as a unit of the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve of Wisconsin. Since the last Ice Age ended approximately 12,000 years ago, the marshland was settled by Native Americans and eventually white settlers. From the late 1800s to the early 1900s, the marsh was subject to dam construction, unregulated duck hunting, and draining and dredging for agriculture and its ecological diversity had been decimated. In 1927, a bill was passed to initiate a large-scale restoration of Horicon Marsh.

Today, the site is owned by the WDNR and US Fish & Wildlife Service and protects 32,000 acres of wetland habitat and approximately 300 bird species. Horicon Marsh is designated as a RAMSAR "Wetland of International Importance". GLC is the land trust for Fond du Lac County, where the northern portion of the Horicon Marsh is located. Private landowners with significant land to preserve near the Marsh are encouraged to contact Glacial Lakes Conservancy about their available conservation options.

Thank you to our Annual Event Sponsors: Kenn Buelow & Mary O'Leary, Art & Sarah Schiller, Chris & Ray Krieg, Dale & Renée Voskuil, Quality Data & Appraisal, and Margaux Bistro.

(Drohman Manitou Maples continued from Page 1)

uplands and open fields.

Gary has told us that wood ducks are grateful visitors and several broods are raised each year. With his artistic flair, Gary has also populated the property with his hand-made rustic birdhouses.

Unfortunately, the hailstorm of 2000 with its shearing winds killed or damaged all of the mature white pines, 100 mature sugar maples and 150 silver maples.

Since then, elderberry and raspberry sprouted up, taking advantage of the open canopy sunshine. Now, a young generation of sugar maples and beech are filling in the gaps. The forest floor is rich in diversity: geranium, violets, meadow rue, yellow avens, asters, jack-in-the-pulpit, enchanter's nightshade, Solomon's seal, cat briar, columbine, bloodroot, mayapple, red baneberry, black and red raspberries, grapevine, and Pennsylvania sedge.

And 40 years of active management and restoration of this property has resulted in over 10,000 tree seedlings, prairie flowers and grasses plantings on the property plus enrollment in the **Managed Forest Law** program.

Did we mention the *Manitowoc 2000 Crane* that Gary bought Mary for Christmas back in 1979?

Gary worked on a pond from 1982 and then had to buy Mary another crane and bulldozer to accomplish the completed and expanded pond, known as *Lake Mary*, in 2003.

Manitou Maples was a cattle farm until 2005. Under the conservation easement agreement, the property also

maintains its working land character with 17-acres of active prime farmland and maple sugaring production.

The property provides rich and diverse habitats—it has uplands, wetlands, and open water; it has dense woods and open fields. Large and small mammals, birds, insects, and amphibians use the area. Deer inhabit the woods. Muskrats tunnel into the dike and woodchucks tunnel in the fields. Bullfrogs swim in the duckweed. Voles gnaw on tree seedlings. Ducks, geese, and wading birds frequent the ponds; and insect-eating swallows and flycatchers scoop up mosquitoes.

In addition, the property is located along the Lake Michigan flyway and provides a stopover site for warblers, hawks, and other migrating birds. During **GLC's Land Team (Tony Smith, Shirley Griffin and Sarah Majerus)** 2-hour site walk this summer in July, the following birds were either seen or heard: red-winged blackbird, green heron, yellowthroat, nuthatch, kingbird, barn and tree swallows, black-throated green warbler, and red-eyed vireo.

Below: A seasonal stream runs through the Drohmans' woods.



Glacial Lakes Conservancy

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Address Service Requested

*Visit our updated website
for the slideshow of
Grasshopper Hill*

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The Grasshopper Hill Preserve Lunch & Guided Land Walk Celebration was held on October 30th to

showcase **Glacial Lakes Conservancy's** land protection work, meet our new neighbors, educate the community about GLC's work in voluntary private land conservation and promote the need for ongoing protection of our local natural resources. The event was held at Fischer Farm with help of hosts **Mark & Noelle Jonas**. GLC volunteer naturalists, **Shirley Griffin** and **Sarah Majerus**, led tours of Grasshopper Hill for those of the fifty-five attendees that wanted to venture out after lunch and hot cider in the drizzle.

Glacial Lakes Conservancy and the **Lake Michigan Shorelands Alliance** has identified the Elkhart Lake Area and nearby Northern

Kettle Moraine as two of its Conservation Priority sites to preserve land for habitat and to protect water quality because of the fragile nature of steeply-sloping kettles and kames, gravel and till soils, and waters of the area.

Board president, **Kenn Buelow** thanked our wonderful donors, **Preservation Partner members**, the **Sheboygan**

County Stewardship Grant award, and our amazing campaign volunteers, like **Chris Krieg** and **Martha Schott**, that made Glacial Lakes Conservancy's Grasshopper Hill Preserve a reality. "This is a terrific conservation project for GLC and the Elkhart Lake area, said board member Krieg, "Grasshopper Hill reminds us that there is still time to preserve the environmental corridors that remain open."

⇒ **Link to our website's Grasshopper Hill Project page** for more information, a FAQ sheet, and the Grasshopper Hill photo gallery slideshow.

Upcoming GLC Events we are planning for 2012

- ⇒ The 2012 GLC Preservation Partner Member Dinner
- ⇒ Annual GLC Wine Tasting & Dessert Auction
- ⇒ The Drohman Manitou Maples Celebration Guided Land Walk



Mark & Noelle Jonas at historic Fischer Farm, pictured with GLC board member Dale Voskuil, were gracious hosts and provided a wonderful setting for GLC's recent Grasshopper Hill Preserve Lunch and Guided Land Walk Celebration.



Landowner Gary Drohman led tours of his property for GLC's baseline photography and inventory work in May and July 2011.

Glacial Lakes Conservancy is a private, non-profit, land trust providing enduring solutions for land conservation in Wisconsin's Lake Michigan Basin and serves Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Calumet, Kewaunee, and Fond du Lac Counties. Contributions are welcome and encouraged.