

Watershed Events

photo credit: Priscilla Galasso

CLCF Leadership Report by Linda Mutschler

The Board of Directors and staff of Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation has been busy on many fronts since the start of 2017.

My name is Linda Mutschler, and I have been a member of the Board of Directors of the Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation (CLCF) since 2011. As many of you already know, Bob Boucher resigned as Executive Director of CLCF on November 30, 2016, and beginning in December 2016, I was asked by the Board to assume the role of Project Manager for the Joan M. Pick Memorial Nature Preserve. Over the past four months, the CLCF Board and I have been engaged in the process of reviewing and evaluating several different items and formulating our plans for the future. Some of these items will be discussed on the following pages—including the upcoming Adopt-A-Tree event on Saturday, April 22nd, 2017 (which happens to fall on the 47th Annual International Earth Day!) as well as the current status of the Pick project. Beyond these items, there have been a number of other developments since December.

At the Annual Meeting in December, it was announced that Tod Maclay had been appointed to the Board of Directors, bringing the total number of Board Members at CLCF to ten. Tod has been a resident of Big Cedar Lake since he was born. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College and has been President of the Big Cedar Lake Property Owner's Association for approximately 14 years and Secretary of the Town of West Bend Planning Commission for 12 years.

In January, the Board established a Land Acquisition Committee, whose members include Jerry Gensch, Jeff Kenkel, and Tod Maclay. Also in January, Buzz and Mary Beth Carr, co-chairs of the 2018 Somewhere in Time event, hosted a committee meeting. At that meeting, plans were finalized to hold Somewhere in Time XII on June 30, 2018 at the West Bend Country Club.

In February, Board member Gary Britton, Office Manager Priscilla Galasso, and I attended the Gathering Waters Land Trust Retreat in Madison, WI. The purpose of our attendance was to learn more about Standards and Practices for Accreditation with the national Land Trust Alliance, emerging trends in conservancy, policy developments, strategic land deals, planned and endowed giving approaches, and land trust engagement with regard to water quality. We returned from Madison with renewed enthusiasm for the vision of preserving the conservation values of the Cedar Lakes watershed and a better sense of the work that needs to be done to ensure that the Foundation is doing its best in stewardship and administration.

On March 21, the Mid-Kettle Moraine Partners met at Lac Lawrann for their 2017 kick-off; three members of the CLCF Board attended.

Lastly, please mark your calendars for the next CLCF Annual Meeting, which will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the JoAnn Mann Lodge at Camp Silverbrook.

As always, all of us at CLCF appreciate your support and continued involvement in our conservation efforts.

Slinger High School Sociology Class Interviews CLCF

Slinger High School students, with the help of a grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council, are creating a study called “**Working Lives: A Look at Water and Transportation in the Slinger Area**”.

The project is described in this way:

“Sociology, history and science students from Slinger High School are working with members of local organizations and Educational Television Productions/NEW to conduct interviews and document working lives in the area. The focus is on people who work in water and transportation fields, as well as local community members’ experience with railroads, roads, lakes and water. A year’s worth of site visits, interviews, surveys, and speakers will culminate in a public program in May 2017 called ‘Slinger Area History/Culture Night’ where the videos, displays and a website will be shared and further dialogue with the community will be encouraged and documented.”

Sociology teacher Nate Grimm invited Mary Franz and Priscilla Galasso to represent CLCF in a classroom discussion on March 13. The result was an opportunity to explore with the students how our community works together to understand and protect the water resources in the area. Following the presentation, Mr. Grimm collected feedback from the students.

Here are some of their comments:

“I learned that preserving nature, what we still have left, is important. Once you change it, it is very hard to turn back. While expanding houses and development has taken place, we have to make sure animals have their needs met. I learned about water run-off. It’s



important to know where your water from your property goes.”

“I learned how important this type of conservation is because once the land is sold to the foundation, it will be safe for many future years to come. I also thought it was awesome how passionate the people are that work for the foundation. Through the video and the speakers, you can tell how sincere they are about preserving land and water around the Cedar Lakes.”

“I was really surprised the number of pieces of land they’ve bought over the years and the total number of acres. I like how people work together to keep our lakes clean and safe.”

The Slinger Area History/Culture Night is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24 from 6:30 – 8:15 p.m. at Slinger High School. CLCF is grateful to Mr. Grimm and the Slinger High School students in 4th period Sociology for the opportunity to be a part of this educational community event.

Joan M. Pick Memorial Nature Preserve Update



“Our ability to perceive quality in nature begins, as in art, with the pretty. It expands through successive stages of the beautiful to values as yet uncaptured by language.”

aldo leopold | a sand county almanac

CURRENT STATUS

On January 23, 2017, CLCF held an informational meeting at the West Bend Town Hall for CLCF members and Pick property neighbors to talk about possible plans for the Pick property. At the meeting, CLCF shared the background and intent of the Pick gift as well as CLCF's response and planning process to date. Subsequently, the floor was opened for discussion on possible components of the nature preserve design, including:

- Welcome / trailhead / interpretive signage
- Small parking lot and its location
- Primary pathways -- 6-8' wide mown path through the prairie and earthen path through woods
- Secondary pathways -- 3-4' wide mown path through prairie
- Oak council / prairie gathering / seating ideas
- Invasive species removal and management
- Tree and shrub plantings

The purpose of the discussion was to hear ideas from CLCF members and Pick neighbors that would help us to formulate our plans and priorities going forward. We also gathered feedback from those present at the meeting in the form of a written survey. There were 43 community members plus eight CLCF Board members and staff for a total of 51 attendees. CLCF Board members and staff did not participate in the survey. A total of 33 surveys were returned for a 77% participation rate (33/43).

Key takeaways from the survey include:

85% of respondents feel it is very important to remove woody invasive shrubs.

76% of respondents feel it is very important to remove invasive herbaceous plants.

78% of respondents are very likely or somewhat likely to use trails on the property.

66% of respondents are very likely or somewhat likely to bring children on the trails.

That said, it is also clear from the responses that CLCF needs to spend more time refining a number of the components of the nature preserve in order to address community concerns. For example, areas that elicited more ambiguous responses included the need for interpretative signage (separate from entrance signage), the length of the trail system, the size and location of a parking lot, the desirability of tree and shrub plantings, and the need for seating along the trails. For the complete set of survey results, please see our website page at:

<https://www.conservecedarlakes.org/pick-nature-preserve/>

NEXT STEPS:

Given CLCF member and Pick neighbor comments, it is our intention to proceed slowly and thoughtfully with regard to this project. Our first priorities will include the management of invasive species, the creation of memorial signage, and the establishment of an appropriately scaled trail system.

Adopt-A-Tree 2017 Planned for Earth Day

We are pleased to announce the 2017 Adopt-A-Tree event, a program designed to provide for the long-term restoration and care of woodlands in areas protected by the Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation.

Adopt-A-Tree allows citizens to play an active role in sponsoring the purchase, planting and care of trees. Volunteers are invited to help actually plant the trees on a date early this spring. Fun, fellowship, and refreshments are part of this planting event.

This year's event coincides with the **47th Annual International Earth Day!**

There are many ways to get involved in this program. The first step is to Adopt-A-Tree today. If you would like to help us spread the word about this Earth Day activity, please contact the Conservation Foundation office to receive additional fliers.

The joy of watching the annual growth of trees and restoration of woodlands promises to be rewarding. Participants at every level can take pride in helping to create a living legacy for the benefit of future generations.

This year's planting date is: **Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Rain Date: **Sunday, April 23, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

This year's planting goal is **5500** trees: red oak, white oak, pin oak, and shagbark hickory.

This year's site is: **Timmer Nature Preserve** - 11 acres between Uncle Dick's Road and Cedar Creek in the town of West Bend. Look for a sign at the corner of Timmer Bay Road and County Road NN. Bring shovels and gloves if you will be planting trees. CLCF will provide some as well. Refreshments and snacks will be served mid-day.

To Adopt-A-Tree, please make checks payable to CLCF at P.O. Box 347, West Bend, WI 53095
For more information or to RSVP for the event please call (262)353-4866 or e-mail askclcf@clcf.info

Board of Directors 2017

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|-----------------------|-------------------------|
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| Mr. Michael Lindemann | Mr. Tod Maclay |
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Watershed Events is published by the Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation, Inc., a public non-profit organization committed to the preservation of wetlands and woodlands within the tri-lakes region of Washington County.

Our most sincere thanks to all those who make this work possible!

Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation
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www.conservecedarlakes.org
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Adopt-A-Tree on Earth Day
Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
(Rain Date: April 23, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)

In Memoriam: **Grace Erickson** of Glen Rock, NJ (formerly of Slinger), age 100. Our thanks to her family for designating CLCF as a memorial donation recipient.