



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING

20 Years of LAND PRESERVATION

landscript

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Protecting Significant Natural, Scenic and Farm Lands, and Advancing Stewardship, Now And For All Future Generations

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Dear Friends,

Did you know that the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy employs 22 people in our efforts to engage our community in land preservation?

Joined by a cadre of volunteers, each of us takes pride to have been a part of some of these accomplishments in this, our 20th year:

- Another 760 feet of shoreline protected along East Grand Traverse Bay in Acme
- New sustainable trails for improved access to nature at Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area, Arcadia Dunes: The C.S. Mott Nature Preserve, Railroad Point Natural Area, and Green Point Dunes Nature Preserve
- Controlling invasive phragmites along the Lake Michigan shoreline in over 60% of our service region
- A new website with more features to help people find information and enhance opportunities to enjoy protected lands
- Over 50 hikes and stewardship days enjoyed by hundreds of people
- Restoration activities at unique areas like the Dry Hill Grassland at Arcadia Dunes, and the Arcadia Marsh and Trapp Farm Nature Preserves

We are honored to work for this organization and we strongly believe in its mission. Your support keeps us very busy in our efforts to protect natural, scenic, and farm lands and advance stewardship, now and for future generations. We are so grateful to serve you and the land we love.

With gratitude for your ongoing support,

*Glen Chown • Megan Olds • Matt McDonough • Birgit Yetter
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PHOTO BY JOHN ROBERT WILLIAMS



Seed Collecting at Arcadia Marsh Nature Preserve

RESTORATION OF THE ARCADIA MARSH NATURE PRESERVE

LAND PROTECTION

The Arcadia Marsh is a Great Lakes Coastal Marsh, a rare and declining natural community found only in Great Lakes coastal areas. **These marshes are some of the most productive ecosystems in the world, and Arcadia Marsh is one of only 15 or so remaining along Lake Michigan's Lower Peninsula shoreline.**

Thanks to the generous support of many donors, the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy acquired 155 acres of land within Arcadia Marsh and, due to serious threats to the health of the marsh from hydrological modifications and invasive species, we received grants from the Michigan Coastal Zone Management program and the Sustain Our Great Lakes program through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

to begin critical restoration of the marsh.

Working in partnership with Ducks Unlimited, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Conservation Resource Alliance, and the Manistee County Road Commission, the restoration activities will focus on restoring flows within the natural channel of Bowens Creek, treating invasive species infestations, and re-creating shallow, open water areas within the Marsh that have been lost.

In addition to the ongoing treatment of invasive species which began in the fall of 2010, a prescribed burn to remove thatch from these treatments is planned for early 2012. These treatments, along with any needed supplemental plantings, should allow for recolonization by native plants. Seeds from native

plants were collected earlier this year and will be used to replenish the population of native plants, such as wild rice, found in the marsh.

The final focus of the restoration is to create six acres of shallow "scrapes" within the areas of the marsh that are inundated during periods of high water. Many of the rare bird species documented at the marsh occur during periods of higher water when there is an abundance of emergent marsh habitat. Increasing shallow marsh habitat also helps re-create conditions that make Arcadia Marsh a historically important northern pike spawning marsh.

Our work at the Arcadia Marsh is another example of how your Conservancy uses strategic partnerships to fund and accomplish our mission.

A NEW TRAIL SYSTEM AT GLACIAL HILLS

By swing, chop, scrape and tamp a new trail system and a new era are being forged at Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area. After a nearly 8-year acquisition process a multi-use trail system that promises to be of regional significance embodies the next phase and vision for the property.

Located approximately 1.5 miles northwest of the Village of Bellaire in Antrim County, Glacial Hills' 763 acres of beautiful rolling land, owned jointly by the County and Forest Home Township, loudly beckons the hiker, biker, runner, and explorer.

Township officials have shown great leadership in realizing their constituents' expressed desire for more recreational opportunities. In response, the Conservancy is continuing their commitment to this project by designing and building a sustainable, multi-use trail system, primarily with volunteer labor.

Support for the trail has been remarkable and expressed most noticeably by growing attendance at our guided hikes and trail building days. A significant portion of Loop 1 was built under the watchful eye of Conservancy Stewards Brad Gerlach and Steve Lagerquist by a talented TCAPS work

crew while Loop 2 and beyond will be constructed this fall by a number of volunteers and groups, including some currently unemployed individuals who are being sponsored by the Herrington-Fitch Foundation through a unique partnership with Goodwill Industries.

A key partnership in the business community has no doubt helped the cause. "Short's is committed to expanding outdoor recreational opportunities and the appreciation of nature in our area. The new Glacial Hills trail will showcase the awe inspiring beauty of the Bellaire area

and increase our region's standing as a destination for healthy outdoor activity. Such opportunities benefit the area because they can be enjoyed by local residents and also because they provide a draw for visitors who in turn spend money in our area", said Matt Drake, Operations Manager for Short's Brewery in Bellaire.

Eventually Glacial Hills will be a place to come for solitude and quiet recreation but for now you are likely to hear the dull thud of a tamper and the muffled chatter of volunteer crews echoing over the hills while building on the ground a vision stirred decades ago.



MEET OUR NEWEST VANGUARD SOCIETY MEMBER

LAND PROTECTION

“My family started coming to Crystal Lake in 1912,” says Jane Comings, our newest Vanguard Society member. **“During World War I my grandmother cultivated a Victory Garden in the area, taking her canned produce home to Chicago on the ferry at the end of the season.”**

Thus began a century-long connection to the land, recently celebrated with a planned-gift commitment.

Jane’s annual visits to Crystal Lake began at age 7, when her parents acquired a cottage in the Congregational Summer Assembly. Some forty years later Jane and her husband, now deceased, built their own cottage nearby, as a retreat from their professional lives in Washington DC.

“I love what the GTRLC has achieved in protecting this region,” says Jane, a retired teacher who enjoys hiking Elberta Dunes, climbing Old Baldy, and walking Lake Michigan’s shoreline.

In September Jane contacted the Conservancy to arrange a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) and spoke with GTRLC’s newest staffer, Diane Dupuis. Diane joined the Conservancy’s fund development team in August to manage our planned giving program.

Jane says that a CGA works for her because she will receive an annuity payment that she can count on. “I’m not wealthy, but when I received a small inheritance earlier this year, I knew that I wanted part of it to support the Conservancy’s work.”

“Jane was hoping to create her annuity before heading back to Virginia for the winter,” Diane explains, **“and I’m thrilled that as an organization we were able to make that happen for her in just a few days.”**

Jane’s investment in the region also includes volunteering at the Benzie Shores District Library, where she and Diane got together to exchange final paperwork. “Meeting Jane on Betsie Bay to complete her agreement was pure joy,” Diane says.



Jane Comings and Diane Dupuis



van-guard: the foremost or leading position in a trend or movement

Members of our Vanguard Society have honored us by offering a planned gift. Planned gifts include estate plans, charitable remainder trusts, charitable gift annuities, life insurance policies, IRAs, 401(k) and 403(b) plans, or other deferred means of giving. Planned gifts are a great way to make a significant contribution to the work of the Conservancy. They represent a lasting legacy to conservation and provide for the permanent protection of lands important to you, your family, and future generations. If you would like to consider joining our Vanguard Society, please call Diane Dupuis at 231-929-7911 or email her at ddupuis@gtrlc.org.

VANGUARD SOCIETY

Vanguard Society members are those whose future plans include gifts through their estates, trusts, annuities, insurance policies and other planned giving options. If you would like to learn more about how you can become a Vanguard Society member contact Diane Dupuis, Planned Giving Program Manager at ddupuis@gtrlc.org or 231-929-7911.

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F Bold entries indicate founding members who gave their first gift to the Conservancy between June 1, 1991 and December 31, 1992.

✧ New Vanguard Society members

INVASIVE SPECIES BEWARE!

LAND PROTECTION

To continue our targeted approach to controlling invasive plant species in 2012 and 2013, the Conservancy has partnered to expand our work along the entire eastern shoreline of Lake Michigan.

Our work with The Nature Conservancy, Leelanau Conservancy, Conservancy of West Michigan, and the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy will help us to maintain the health of our nature preserves and other privately and publicly owned parcels through the removal of certain non-native plant species including garlic mustard, phragmites, and blue lyme grass.

Thank you to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Sustain Our Great Lakes Program for understanding the value in this work

and the importance of strategic partnerships and for investing in our region.

The Conservancy is also a partner in the Grand Traverse Regional Invasive Species Network and the NW Michigan Cooperative Weed Management Area, which are both working diligently to the same end.



Invasive, non-native Phragmites (Phragmites australis)

GRAND TRAVERSE REGIONAL LAND CONSERVANCY



Protecting significant natural, scenic, and farm lands, and advancing stewardship, now and for future generations

GTRLC.

For two decades, the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy has protected and cared for the region's natural, scenic, farm and forest lands. With needed support from individual donors and foundations, volunteers, and our many partners, we have protected 34,000 acres of land and 106 miles of shoreline along our exceptional rivers, lakes and streams. With the community's support, we will continue to support our region's and state's future quality of life and fulfill our vital mission. Here are some of the things we're working on:

INVEST IN LAND PROTECTION AND ENHANCE ACCESS TO NATURE AND RECREATION

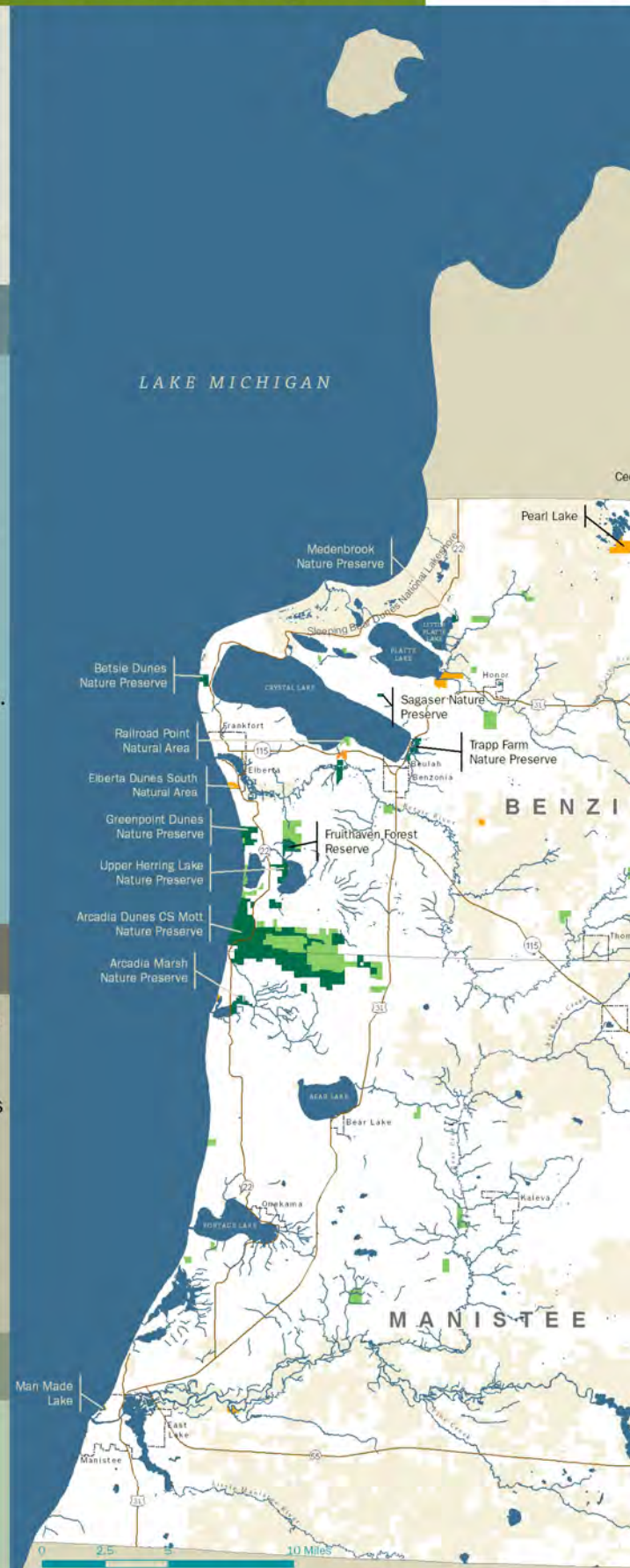
- Permanently protect an average of 1,000 acres of land per year including working farms that support a vibrant agricultural economy and forested lands and wetlands that protect water quality
- Create or expand parks and natural areas. In 2011/2012 that will include an addition to the Railroad Point Natural Area and a continuation of our work to expand the Acme Shoreline Park
- Explore opportunities for infrastructure improvements at Conservancy owned natural areas such as the Reffitt Nature Preserve, the Arcadia Marsh, the Wilcox-Palmer-Shah Preserve, and Arcadia Dunes: The C.S. Mott Nature Preserve
- Improve access to nature in partnership with local municipalities. Partners and communities of focus for 2011/2012 include:
 - Forest Home Township and Antrim County at the Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area
 - Benzie County at the Railroad Point Natural Area
 - Village of Elberta at the Elberta Dunes South Natural Area
 - Grand Traverse County at Maple Bay Farm & Natural Area
 - Peninsula Township at the Pelizzari Natural Area

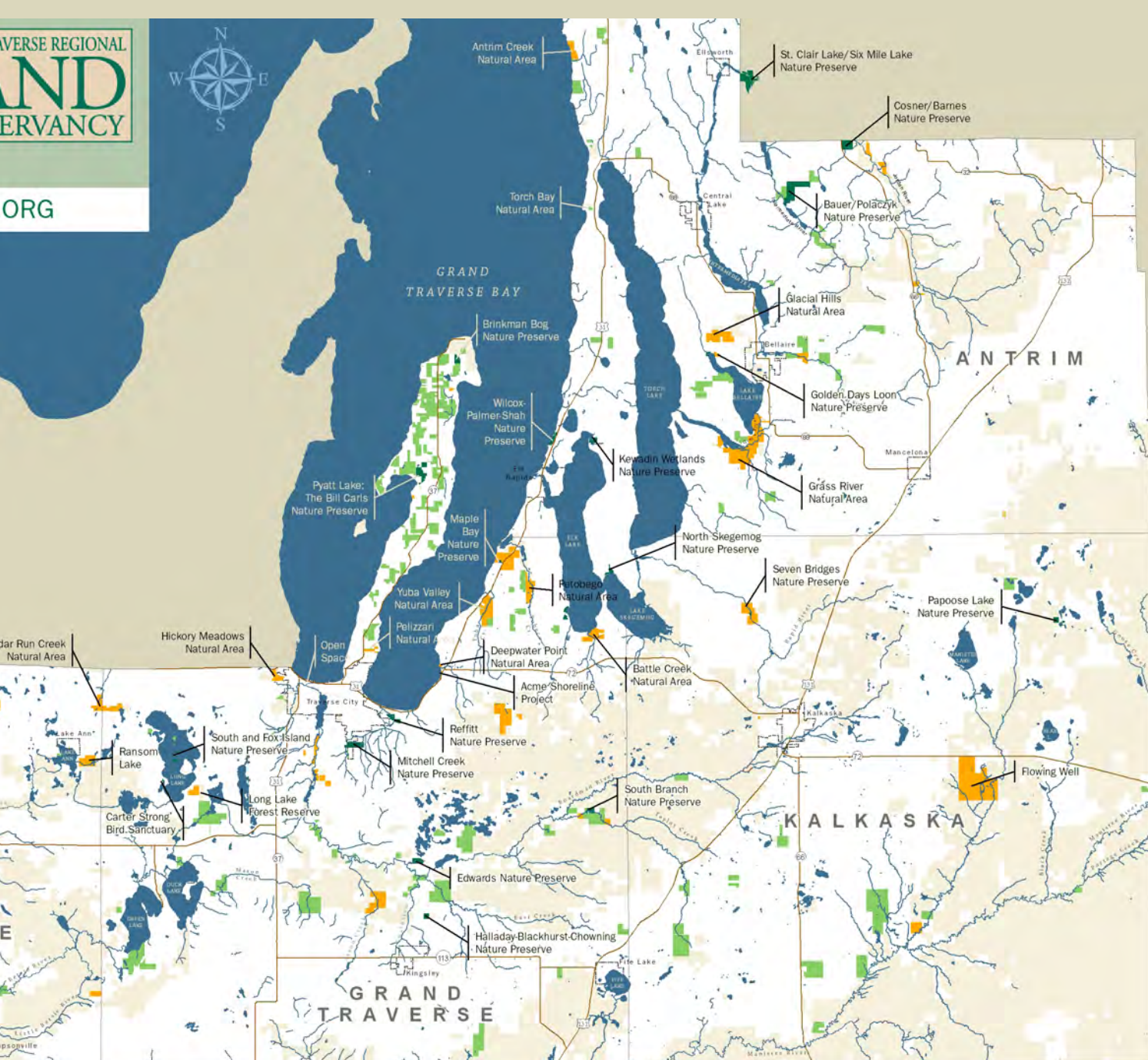
PROTECT, MONITOR, AND MANAGE LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- Monitor 201 conservation easements in partnership with private landowners
- Steward 32 nature preserves that are open to the public
- Monitor and manage over 3,000 acres of State-owned properties at Seven Bridges and Skegemog Natural Areas
- Manage a sustainable forestry program at Arcadia Dunes and evaluate potential to expand to other preserves
- Organize field work days to support land stewardship needs
- Restore hydrology, native plants and animal habitats at the Arcadia Marsh and Trapp Farm Nature Preserves
- Manage the Dry Hill Grassland restoration program

NURTURE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PEOPLE, THE LAND, AND OUR MISSION

Through guided hikes and educational events, volunteer and stewardship opportunities, and celebrations of shared successes, we will build and strengthen relationships with the people who love this community and connect with our mission. We hope you will join us! To learn more visit: gtrlc.org





Total lands protected
in our service area of
Antrim, Benzie,
Grand Traverse, Kalkaska,
and Manistee Counties

34,000 acres
106 miles of shoreline

LEGEND

- GTRLC Nature Preserves
- GTRLC Protected Public Parks & Natural Areas
- Privately Owned Protected Land Including Farmland
- Other Protected Land

Grand Traverse Regional
Land Conservancy
Service Area



MEMORIALS | July 1 – September 30, 2011

Gifts were made in memory of the names shown in bold.

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The following donors made gifts and/or pledge payments between July 1 and September 30, 2011 to one or more of the following: **The Conservancy Fund**, the fund that supports our annual operating budget; a current land protection project; or one of our long-term funds. *We deeply appreciate and depend upon your generous support.*

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LC Indicates donor is a Land Champion monthly donor

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HONORARIUMS | July 1 – September 30, 2011

Gifts were made in honor of the names shown in bold.

Erin Anderson

Joan Dedo

Kathy Anderson & Tom Reynolds

Dorothy & Howard Ecker

Thomas & Peter Andrews

John & Mary Tris

Reg Bird

Joan Dedo

Chuck & Nancy Brickman

Marcia & Ted Curran

Paul Brink

David & Claudia Fry

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 Lorrie Vit

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Jennifer Hansen

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Dale & Marie Mankin

Lisa Machugh

Peggy L. Martin

Porter & Sherrie Martin

The Chown Family

Jerome Nadolski

Mark Nadolski,
 Coldwell Banker
 Schmidt Real Estate

Mira Reyes

William Habich,
 Coldwell Banker
 Schmidt Real Estate

Gretel Rutledge

May Waldron

Pat Salathiel

David & Claudia Fry

Porter & Sherrie Martin

The Chown Family

Marathon Automotive has given gifts in honor of the following customers:

Tony Alvarado
 Gina Aranki
 Dave Bajema
 Bonnie Black
 Jim Brady
 David & Kathy Clulo

Larry Fatt

Ben & Jan Florence

Loren Fox

Eb & Mary Frixen

Tammy Frye

Carmen & Terry Goodell

Kathy Gordon

Kent & Darla Hairston

Hannah Israel

Pete Koeppen

Nick & Kathy Kroupa

Ron Martinson

Victor McCarty

Jenny Munten

Joe Navyac

Overhead Door

Betty Plough

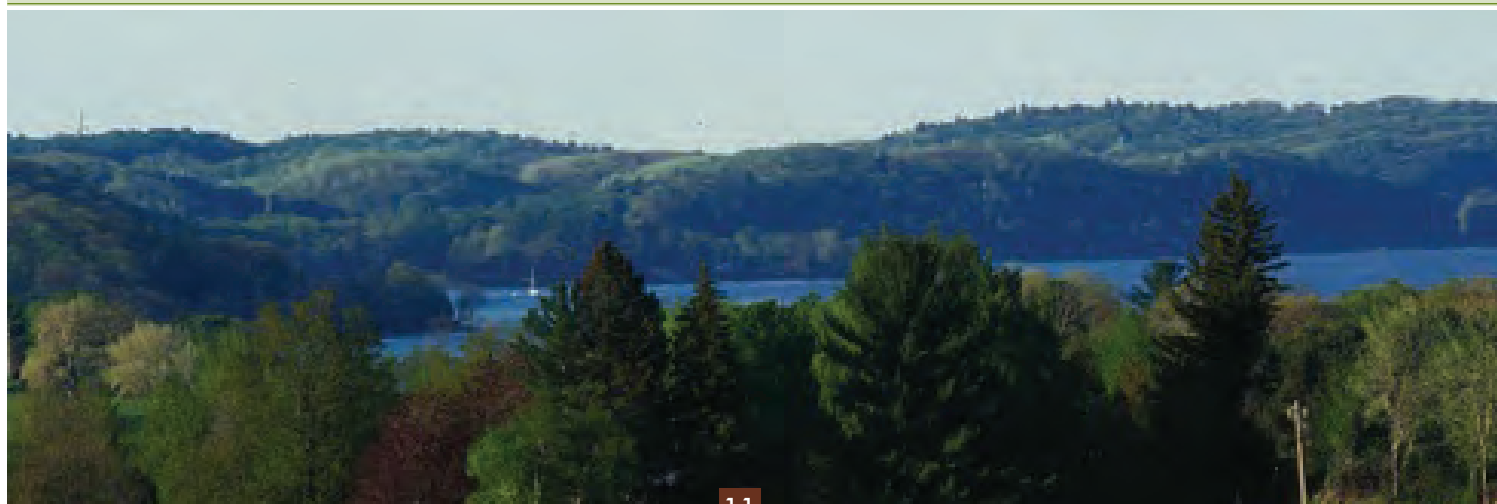
Michelle Rayner

Ellen Schrader

Dan Skeba

Skylar Swensen

Tom & Maggie Vinette



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What a great investment this Conservancy continues to be! Here's to the next 20 years and more of the incredibly creative work that benefits all who love this region.

- ROB COLLIER,
a very satisfied founder
and 20 year donor to
the Conservancy

