



**North Central Conservancy Trust**  
**Vol. 16 No. 2** **Autumn 2017**

# **SPECIAL PLACES**

*Birch on a Pond*

*Photo by Roger Zimmermann*

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# BUILDING LASTING CONSERVATION RELATIONSHIPS

*Aaron Thompson, President*

The thrill of witnessing the successful completion of a conservation easement can be enjoyed through many lenses. On the one hand, we can rejoice at the value of the land itself that through permanent protection will continue to provide a home for wildlife, views of nature, and, in most cases, a place for lucky landowners to call home. However, as I reflect, the more realistic vision that emerges from these experiences is perhaps more similar to that of reaching the finish line of a long-distance race, as a complex mix of relief and elation are often present in the final stages of seeing a property permanently protected. Conservation of our natural resources, and the permanent protection of worthy lands is not a simple or straightforward task. With the word “forever” always on our minds, the pace of the work of land trusts often seems slow as volunteers and landowners partner to get a project done right. It’s only if one cares to step back and consider that in only twenty-three years NCCT has protected more than 4,000 acres of land “forever” by building relationships one landowner at a time that one begins to see the whole picture and appreciate the scale of effort behind these numbers. It is from this perspective that I’ve seen the land trust grow in our ability to reach out to new partners and adapt to better understand the unique motivation that drives the landowners’ decisions behind each project. Many landowners go back and forth many times before finally deciding to proceed with protecting their land. Perhaps it’s the notion of permanence that makes this both a challenging and meaningful decision for all involved. It’s also one I think each of you needs to experience for yourselves, as NCCT needs people like you to join our ranks and help us achieve our mission of protecting the worthy scenic, working lands, and environmental resources for the people of Central Wisconsin.



Over the last six years as an officer and president of North Central Conservancy Trust, I’ve been astonished by the diversity of reasons that people volunteer their time and donate their resources to support our conservation mission. As a local land trust, our organization fills a need in the conservation movement by providing a community-oriented option for the lasting stewardship and care of the natural world. In the coming year, a new slate of officers, including Dave Worth (President) and Jacob Prater (Vice-President) will continue the important work of the organization. They are carrying on a proud tradition of leadership from people who have

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# GIVING THANKS FOR SPECIAL PLACES

*Janet Smith, Executive Director*

One of the wonderful things about being a landowner with property protected under a conservation easement is that you can walk outside and into a special place that you know is preserved in a natural state forever.



All of us have an innate need for the natural world. After all, everyone and everything originates from this one Earth. Ignoring this inner, evolutionary drive can lead to “Nature-Deficit Disorder,” the term famously coined by author Richard Louv. As much as I feel the desire to be outside in nature, I often find myself so immersed in the office tasks of the day that I forget to go out and merely take a walk!

It’s that internal craving to experience true wilderness that led me to one of the wildest and most threatened special places on earth: Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This place of incomparable vastness and beauty, teeming with wildlife—absent the human kind, renewed my spirit and sense of purpose that we stewards of the planet must continue the hard work and dedication of saving all the special places, both abroad and close to home.

As I sat high on an alpine meadow looking down at the wide, braided Marsh Fork River and the midnight sun above, I recalled Robin Wall Kimmerer’s eloquent prose from her book, *Braiding Sweetgrass*. She shares an indigenous expression of thanksgiving for the natural world, a reminder that people are subject to the same forces as all of the rest of life: “Each person, human or no, is bound to every other in a reciprocal relationship. Just as all beings have a duty to me, I have a duty to them. If an animal gives its life to feed me, I am in turn bound to support its life. If I receive a stream’s gift of pure water, then I am responsible for returning a gift in kind...duties and gifts are two sides of the same coin. Eagles were given the gift of far sight, so it is their duty to watch over us. Rain fulfills its duty as it falls, because it was given the gift of sustaining life. What is the duty of humans? If gifts and responsibilities are one, then asking ‘What is our responsibility?’ is the same as asking ‘What is our gift?’ It is said that only humans have the capacity for gratitude. This is among our gifts.

...we all know the power of gratitude to incite a cycle of reciprocity...

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placed themselves in a position to see the hard work of land conservation carried through, one relationship at a time.

All of this work requires your support, so please consider contributing to our organization financially. As a non-profit organization, our members are critical to our success and your contribution of land, cash, or other financial support can help us to protect Central Wisconsin's special places before they are gone!

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Why should it not be so for Mother Earth, who packs us a lunch every day?...Let us pledge reciprocity with the living world." Let us give thanks to the land.

And so we do give thanks, those of us with the foresight to steward and conserve the land for future generations. Such special places are ever more important on this finite blue marble we call home, as development pressure mounts and calls for resource extraction threaten conservation values. Thanks to you, too, NCCT supporters, for believing in protecting the special places we are so grateful to be a part of here in Central Wisconsin.

## ***North Central Conservancy Trust Annual Meeting***

Our annual event to celebrate the successes of the year will be held Thursday, October 12, from 5 pm to 9 pm at the Greenwood Hills Country Club in Wausau. The Annual Meeting is an opportunity to meet and mingle with easement donors, volunteers, and other NCCT supporters, enjoy a delicious meal, share good stories of the land, and to appreciate all that we have accomplished together in our mission to protect worthy scenic and working lands, and environmental resources for the benefit of the people of central Wisconsin. See our website for details: [www.ncctwi.org](http://www.ncctwi.org)

We hope to see you all there!

### **SPONSORSHIPS NEEDED!**

NCCT depends on your membership and sponsorship dollars to fund our preservation efforts and to provide our events. Your ongoing support is critical, and is needed now more than ever to keep NCCT a strong and viable land trust. Please consider sponsoring a conservation easement or our Annual Meeting for \$100 or another amount. It will be money well spent!

## COMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar and plan to attend North Central Conservancy Trust's upcoming events! Please contact Janet Smith at 715-344-1910 or see NCCT's website, [www.ncctwi.org](http://www.ncctwi.org), for details on any of the events below.

### *Land Conservation Society's (LCS) Fall Work Days*

Getting outside and enjoying the lovely properties preserved with conservation easements is one of the activities enjoyed most by NCCT's volunteers. Please join UWSP's energetic group of LCS members to control invasive species at these Stevens Point-area properties on these dates:

- Saturday, October 7, at the Henderson property
- Saturday, November 4, at the Stevenson property

For additional details, contact Janet Smith at 715-344-1910 or [edncct@gmail.com](mailto:edncct@gmail.com), or Deaken Boggs, LCS President at 262-215-0773 or [deaken.j.boggs@uwsp.edu](mailto:deaken.j.boggs@uwsp.edu)

### *NCCT's Holiday Potluck Returns!*

Join us for a fun social evening at our second holiday potluck! NCCT will again host this event at Central Rivers Farmshed in Stevens Point (<http://www.farmshed.org/>).

Bring a dish to share, an item to re-gift for the white elephant gift exchange (this was a lot of fun last year!), and your own beverage.

**Date: Thursday, November 30, 6:00 – 9:00 pm.**

**Location: Farmshed, 1220 Briggs Ct., Stevens Point**



*Photo by Roger Zimmermann*

## VOLUNTEER CORNER: BECKY WADLEIGH

Becky volunteers as secretary for the Properties Committee and as a conservation easement monitor for NCCT! For a long time, she has valued the work that land trusts do, and strongly believes in NCCT's mission to protect land for conservation and agriculture in the region. It is very important to Becky to have the opportunity to support the work that NCCT does in Central



Wisconsin because she believes that working with private landowners to foster their conservation and stewardship ethic for their land will have a lasting and essential impact on our natural communities.

While working to complete her degree in Land Use Planning from UW-Stevens Point, Becky was hired as a Stewardship Intern for the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust in southeastern Wisconsin, where she spent the summer working with volunteers and youth groups on land stewardship projects in a variety of different natural communities. This is when the land trust love began! After graduating, Becky was hired full-time to assist on an aquatic invasive species control grant, and remained there until 2016, when she returned to UWSP to begin a master's degree in Natural Resource Planning.

Becky is currently researching the conservation priorities of private forest landowners in Wisconsin's Northwoods in a time of increasing negative impacts on the forests due to development, climate change, and a number of other variables. Becky hopes to continue her passion for working with private landowners to protect valuable land in the Midwest when she is finished with her degree this year. She is also passionate about forming successful collaborations between public and private organizations and the communities they serve. Becky is searching for land trust jobs (probably as you are reading this), and plans to continue to volunteer with NCCT for as long as possible!

Ever considered becoming a volunteer? NCCT needs YOU! Contact Executive Director Janet Smith at 715-344-1910 to match your passion for our natural resources to NCCT's volunteer needs.

# NCCT RECEIVES MARATHON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT FUND GRANT

In spring of 2017, the DNR awarded NCCT a Lakeshore Protection Grant of over \$76,000 to protect important lakeshore and other resources on Mission Lake. In July, Marathon County awarded NCCT over \$39,000 in Environmental Impact Funds (EIF). The combination of these two generous grants will allow us to complete a conservation easement on the 88 acre Waypost Camp. The grant funds will also help the camp's owners, Crossways Camping Ministries, make trail and signage improvements.



To celebrate the DNR grant award and NCCT's protection of over 4,000 acres, NCCT and Crossways Camping Ministries together held a spring open house May 13. The event was well attended, and featured presentations by Camp Director Adam Brandt,

NCCT's Janet Smith, archaeologist Ray Reser, and Marathon County Shoreland Protection Specialist Lauren Nichols. UW-Extension Aquatic Plant Specialist Paul Skawinski gave boat tours, Adam Brandt led hikes, and Audubon Society's Carol Kropidlowski led a bird hike on the property. We look forward to hosting future public events at Waypost Camp! *(Photo contributed by Roger Zimmermann)*



# NCCT WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

## NICHOLE BESYK

I grew up in the suburbs of Chicago, but always loved going “up north” for family vacations. I studied ecosystem restoration as an undergraduate at UW-Stevens Point, then wandered to the land of the redwood trees for graduate school, where I earned a master’s degree studying forest soils at Humboldt State University. I now work as a soil scientist and environmental technician for Sand Creek Consultants, where I’m learning how to prevent and remediate environmental contamination. I am especially inspired by “green” remediation - Sand Creek is among the top in the country for use of phytoremediation technologies (using plants to clean contaminated soils and waters).



With roots in Wisconsin, an ecology-based education, and a growing awareness of local environmental issues, I naturally gravitated toward NCCT. In addition to serving NCCT as the Monitoring Coordinator and member of NCCT’s Properties Committee, I am looking forward to joining the board. I am overjoyed to be part of the NCCT community, working towards conservation of unique Wisconsin landscapes.

## NANCY TURYK

I am enthusiastic about serving as a board member of NCCT and have had an interest in land conservancies for a number of years. I appreciate the idea of helping people to protect the land that they love so I volunteered on the NCCT property committee in its early years. Shortly thereafter, I was asked to be on my Town’s land use education committee so I refocused my volunteer time to that and remained on the Town of Lanark’s plan commission until this year.

I have worked for the university for 27 years, primarily as a water resource scientist conducting research and community outreach. My Master’s degree thesis focused on modeling





phosphorus in the Petenwell Flowage. My bachelor of science degree included an emphasis in water chemistry with minors in chemistry and natural resource management. Much of my work focuses on working with community members to improve their lakes and rivers, which involves discussions about land management and land protection options. During planning meetings, we often introduce the idea of conservancy easements as protection options for shorelands, wetlands, and within the watershed. One of the more relevant projects that I have worked on occurred in the St. Croix headwaters with a number of partners, including the local land conservancy. As part of the project, one of our tasks was to identify and prioritize land directly connected to the St. Croix and its tributaries for use by the land conservancy to prioritize their work.

## SUSAN WURZER

My interest in serving on the NCCT board comes with a strong land conservation ethic and commitment to protecting and preserving our natural resources, scenic places and the critters that depend on these wild places for their survival and livelihood. My father worked for the DNR as a Trout Rearing Station manager and I



was brought up at one of the most scenic and beautiful areas of our state. I came to revere nature and at a young age understand the importance of preserving our precious lands and resources.

I have been active in conservation groups and efforts throughout my adult life. I am a founding member of Friends of the Tomorrow Waupaca River, Inc. and have served as the secretary since the organization's beginning in 2005.

I bring to the board not only my passion for conservation but my experience as an educator.

My professional work has included over 29 years in public outreach and education; serving for 10 years as state educator for hospice and palliative care.

I suppose I would be remiss not to mention that I have also been married to an environmental advocate for over 25 years as well.

Together George and I have been committed to doing what we can to help educate people about the importance of preserving our resources for future generations.

## GREEN PROPERTY FOR SALE!

NCCT was gifted the Bagley property from the Mildred I. Bagley Living Trust with the stipulation that a conservation easement be placed on the land. The 160-acre property in Adams County includes a 2-acre Building Zone and a 68.5-acre Agricultural Zone, with the remaining 89.5 acres largely forested. This property represents an opportunity to own a piece of Central Wisconsin at a reduced price because it will be sold with a conservation easement. If interested, please contact Whitemarsh Realty at (608) 339-9001.



## SOLD!

North Central Conservancy Trust is pleased to announce that the 263-acre property in Adams County gifted to NCCT in 2011 has been sold to private buyers. This beautiful parcel is protected with a conservation easement, and thus will be monitored annually by NCCT. The land is largely forested, with some wetlands and a pond and stream flowing through it.



The proceeds from this sale will go towards furthering the work of NCCT in Central Wisconsin. We welcome the new owners to the NCCT family!

## WHY DONATE LAND?

Both properties above were given to NCCT. This is an option for those wishing to protect their land from undesirable development or use after they no longer can oversee it have the option. This strategy is best suited for landowners who are looking for alternative approaches for divesting ownership, or to reduce a tax burden on the owner or the estate. By donating land to NCCT, a tax credit for the full value can be realized. NCCT will respect your wishes for the land, and will sell the property to a buyer who understands and accepts your wishes. When appropriate, NCCT will place an easement on the property at the time of sale, to ensure that the donor's wishes are protected in perpetuity. Landowners receive the full tax advantage, plus the satisfaction of knowing the proceeds from the sale are used to promote conservation across central Wisconsin.

## NCCT MEMBERSHIP

Yes! I want to join  or renew my membership

Student \$10 \_\_\_ Key Donor \$100 \_\_\_ Trustee \$1000 \_\_\_

Individual \$25 \_\_\_ Sustainer \$250 \_\_\_ Fellow \$5000 \_\_\_

Preserver \$50 \_\_\_ Protector \$500 \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Special donation as a tribute for \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

For credit-card payment, please go to [www.ncctwi.org/donate](http://www.ncctwi.org/donate)

PLEASE SEND MY NEWSLETTER AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE  
VIA EMAIL TO SAVE TREES AND POSTAGE!

*Donations are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.*

*Make check payable to NCCT, and mail to:*

NCCT, PO Box 124, Stevens Point WI 54481-0124



NORTH CENTRAL CONSERVANCY TRUST  
PO BOX 124 STEVENS POINT WI 54481-0124  
[www.ncctwi.org](http://www.ncctwi.org) [edncct@gmail.com](mailto:edncct@gmail.com) 715 -344-1910

### *Board of Directors*

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Roger Zimmermann, Secretary  
H. B. "Butch" Pomeroy, Treasurer

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### *Executive Director*

Janet Smith



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*Working to protect worthy scenic, working lands and environmental resources for the benefit of the people of central Wisconsin.*