

North Central Conservancy Trust
Newsletter Vol. 17 No. 2 Autumn 2018
Annual Report 2018



Building on Success

Great Blue Heron

Photo by Roger Zimmermann

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BUILDING ON SUCCESS

Janet Smith, Executive Director

For the past 6 years, NCCT's office space and all utilities have been generously donated by David Worth and The Worth Company in Stevens Point. We knew that eventually The Worth Company would outgrow their space and need the office back; Thankfully, being able to live rent-free for so long has helped NCCT save and grow our investments to a point that we could afford our own office space if necessary. Thus, NCCT is looking at several options to find a new office home within the next year: Lease or own the former DNR ranger station in Whiting, rent office space elsewhere, or find a permanent home in an as-yet unknown spot. The DNR ranger station building, if selected, requires significant interior renovations estimated to cost between \$25,000 and \$35,000. This leads me to our 2018 Annual Dinner, which was a resounding fundraising success!



With 92 attendees, NCCT filled SentryWorld's Grand Hall for an evening of dining delights, connecting with old friends and new, musical notes by the Jenny and Tom McComb duo, Silent and Live Auctions, and a meaningful and poignant presentation by our guest speaker, Aldo Leopold scholar Curt Meine.

Thanks to our sponsors, donors, volunteers, other contributors, and attendees, this year's event raised significant funds for a net total of \$13,847! These funds will be used to further our land-protection mission, including assistance with our office home search. We gratefully acknowledge all those who helped make the evening special—we could not have done it without you! Following are a list of sponsors and contributors and a few photos of this memorable night. Photography generously donated by Laura Pflibsen Photography.

2018 ANNUAL DINNER



Curt Meine speaking about "What it means to Love a Place".

(Laura Pflibsen photo)



Looking over the live auction items

(Laura Pflibsen photo)

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Anderson O'Brien Law

John Houghton

Susan Wurzer

2018 ANNUAL DINNER CONTRIBUTORS

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SILENT AND LIVE AUCTION DONORS

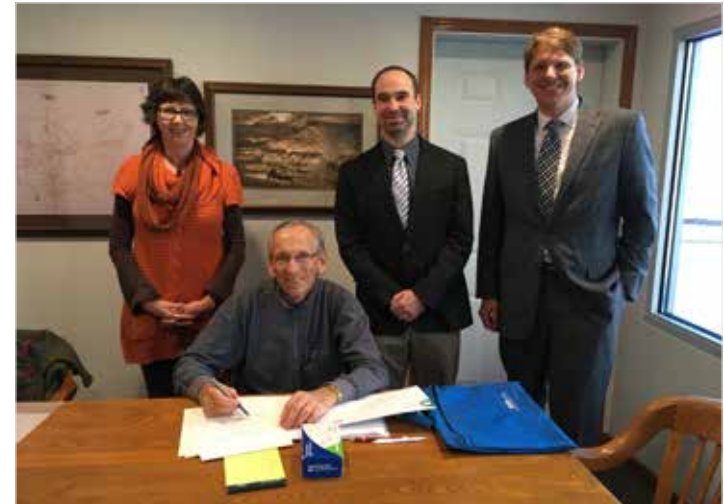
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(Wheel of Conservation Wines)
Butch Pomeroy
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Jan Seiler
Janet Smith & Michael LeClair

SHILLINGLAW EASEMENT ADDITION: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PERPETUAL HABITAT MANAGEMENT

John Shillinglaw, who currently has protected 220 acres under conservation easement in southern Waushara County, has added approximately 14 acres to his easement through NCCT. This 14-acre addition protects endangered Karner blue butterfly habitat and completely encompasses a tamarack-leatherleaf bog, which is a rare community this far south.

The Shillinglaw property will be managed to maintain the high-quality prairie and savannah habitat in perpetuity via an endowed fund held by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. NCCT as easement holder will ensure the management takes place in accordance with a professionally-written land management plan. All NCCT's costs of overseeing such management (which will be completed by a qualified contractor) are covered through the endowment fund disbursed by the Foundation. If you are an easement donor concerned about invasive species degrading the quality of your property over time or just want to ensure the habitat is maintained (within the easement requirements), you may want to consider such a conservation endowment with the Natural Resources Foundation.

For more information on establishing an endowed fund for your lands, you may contact Camille Zanoni, Natural Resources Foundation development director, at (608) 264-8922 or email Camille.Zanoni@wisconsin.gov, or visit WisConservation.org



*John Shillinglaw (seated) signs the conservation easement amendment to protect an additional 14 acres under conservation easement.
Also pictured, left to right: Janet Smith, David James, and Justin Regnier*

NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS



NEW PRESIDENT, DAVID M. JAMES

David is a partner with Anderson O'Brien Law in Stevens Point who joined NCCT's Board of Directors in May 2016. David looks forward to leading NCCT into the future as we assist landowners who wish to place a conservation easement on their land, work toward completing our next strategic plan, consider growing our staff, and search for a new office space to call home.

The remaining slate of new board officers includes Nancy Turyk, Vice President; Roger Zimmermann, Secretary; and Justin Regnier, Treasurer.



ANNA HAINES

Anna Haines is a professor in the College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and a land use and community development specialist with the University of Wisconsin-Extension. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

Her research and teaching focuses on planning and community development from a natural resources or environmental perspective. Her research has focused on factors that influenced land division in amenity-rich areas of Wisconsin, understanding how zoning codes affect future build out scenarios, sustainable zoning, and local food clusters. Her extension work has focused on comprehensive planning and planning implementation tools and techniques, sustainable communities, and property rights issues. She co-chaired an effort to create a sustainable communities course through the North Central Extension Region and Foundation of Practice. Anna is looking forward to actively taking part as a member of the NCCT board.

A.J. McCASKEY

A.J. is a real estate professional in Wautoma who has 20 years' experience in real estate including vacant land sales. He has a strong land conservation ethic with his love of the outdoors: he enjoys hiking, x-country skiing, snowshoeing, and biking.

A.J. is also a member and vice chairman of the Waushara Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA) and has been involved with the IATA for over 20 years.

A.J. is honored to be serving on NCCT's board as our first director from Waushara County.



KAY MEYER

Kay has lived in Wausau for 32 years and has a cabin in Sawyer County as well. She is a retired pharmacist with experience in both the hospital and retail settings. She has served on the boards of the local PTO, the Marathon County Soccer Association, the Wausau Nordic ski club, her church, and the Wausau Symphonic Band.

As a child she was lucky to live in a small town that allowed her and her friends to play near the creek or in the woods at the edge of town frequently, and sharp memories of those special spots remain with her. While in college in Madison it didn't take long for her to find Picnic Point and the UW Arboretum to center and energize herself in a natural setting near campus.

As a parent of two small children moving to her new home of Wausau, she took them to a new city or county park every day after school to acquaint them (and her!) with the many natural areas Wausau had to offer. Her love and appreciation for all things nature is a significant part of who she is, and has been as long as she can remember.

A year ago, she completed the Wisconsin Master Naturalist training, and continues to study and preserve our state's natural abundance. Caring for our earth, specifically that part she's connected to, seems to be something she feels naturally compelled to do, and she welcomes the opportunity to take that passion a step further with NCCT.



JUSTIN REGNIER

Justin Regnier was born and raised in central Wisconsin. After receiving a BBA in Finance and Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, he returned to central Wisconsin and started working in the financial services industry. Justin is currently a Portfolio Manager for WoodTrust Asset Management and is located in Plover, Wisconsin. Justin currently serves at the

Treasurer of the Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin and is a board member of the Green Circle Trail Board. In their free time, Justin and his wife, Katie, enjoy travel and various outdoor activities, including fishing, golfing, biking, hiking, and skiing.

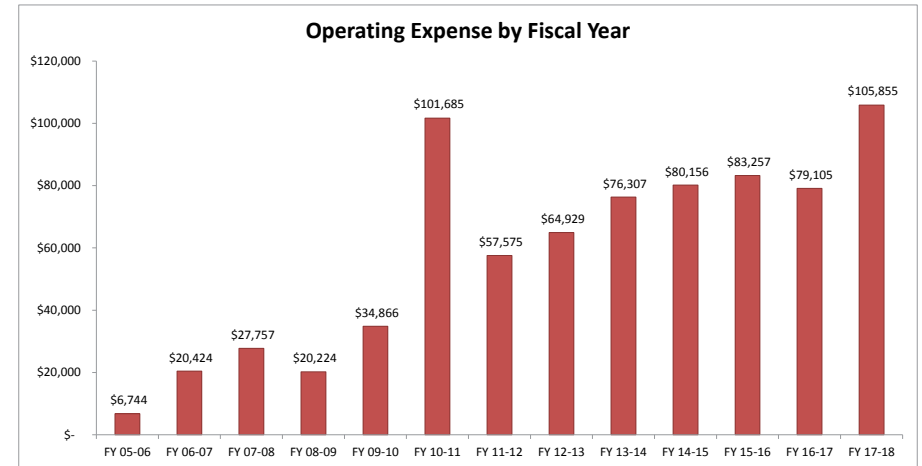
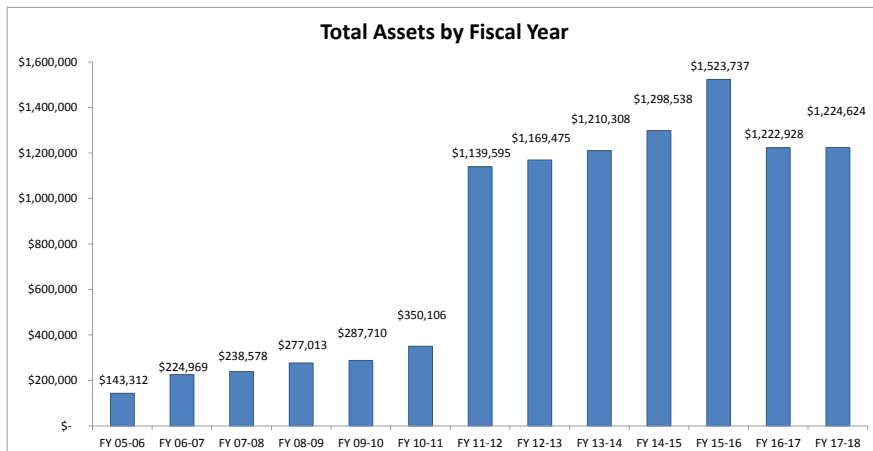
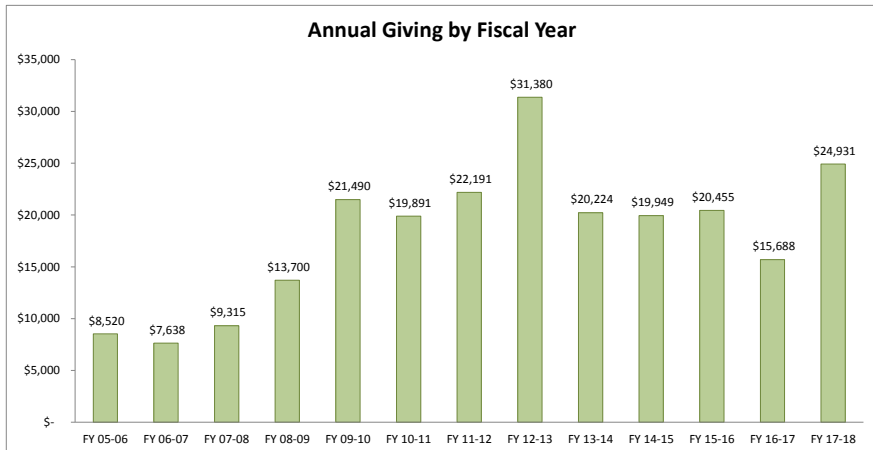
Justin currently serves as NCCT's Treasurer.

2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT

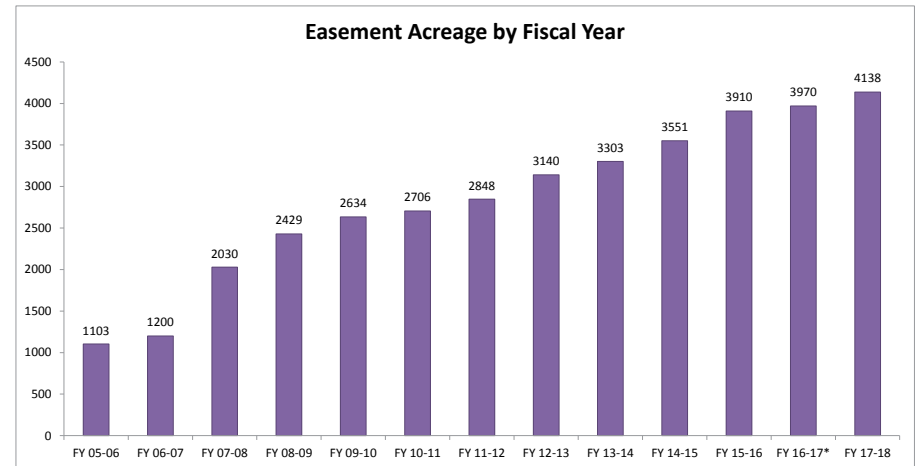
Annual giving in the last year increased by 59%, a significant amount. We thank all our contributors who helped make this growth possible. We anticipate this trend to continue with our increased outreach efforts.

NCCT's total assets showed a modest gain of \$1,696 over the previous fiscal year, but the total gain was depressed due to the loss of \$27,700 realized on the sale of the Ross-Linwood property during the 2017-18 Fiscal Year. The loss is due to the realized sale income being considerably below the appraised value of the property. After accounting for the loss on the sale, NCCT actually shows a healthy total asset growth of \$29,396 during the 2017-18 fiscal year.

The addition of the 88.4-acre Waypost Camp in December 2017, and Duncan Pledger's 80.4-acre property in March 2018 brings the total easement acreage held by NCCT to 4,138 at the end of the 2018 fiscal year.



While operating expenses for the 2017-18 Fiscal Year increased by \$26,750 from the prior fiscal year, \$23,790 of expenses were related to the Waypost Camp property and directly paid by the Marathon County EIF Grant, and therefore this additional expense did not negatively impact NCCT's operating reserves.



Fiscal Year 2016-17 Easement Acreage was incorrectly reported at 4,002 in last year's Annual Report. The correct figure for that year is 3,970 acres. The error is due to the inclusion of reserved areas (building zones) not actually part of easement lands.

MAJOR GIFTS AND GRANTS

We again wholeheartedly thank David Worth and The Worth Company for 6 great years providing beautiful and functional office, conference, and file-storage space and associated overhead expenses. NCCT has been able to grow and prosper as a result, so we are well positioned to take on future needs.

NCCT received the final Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant proceeds of \$2,118.18 for the Plover River Planning project that was initiated in 2015. This project mapped forest and wetlands in the Plover River watershed that could be eligible for protection with a conservation easement and resulted in outreach and educational materials sent to those landowners. Several interested landowners responded to these efforts, although no conservation easements have been completed to-date.

NCCT also received the final DNR Lake Protection Grant proceeds totaling \$6,579.75 for the Waypost Camp conservation easement. The Marathon County Environmental Impact Fund covered the remaining costs of the conservation easement, granting a total of \$33,224.50. In addition to all expenses incurred by NCCT, the grants covered the appraised value of the conservation easement for the land owner, Crossways Camping Ministries, which is a non-profit organization.

Henry Hoffman, one of our easement donors, sadly passed away in 2016. Henry generously gifted NCCT \$2,500 from his estate to be used for stewardship of his easement property.

For the first time since 2015, NCCT was the beneficiary of the Stevens Point Area Co-op's 1% Fridays grant program, through which we received \$499.98. We are grateful to the Co-op members for selecting NCCT to be a recipient again in November 2019!

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED IN FISCAL YEAR 2018

(October 1, 2017–September 30, 2018)

Our sincerest Thank You to all of our continuing members and contributors, and welcome to our new members and supporters!

INDIVIDUAL/SUPPORTER \$1-49

Allen & Mary Jane Uecker Hettinga	Jean Kaatz
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PRESERVER \$50-99

Anne Meronk
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Howard & Arlene Thoyre
Ivan & Anna Stanko
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Allan & Carleen Robertson
Jan Seiler

PROTECTOR \$500-999

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Butch & Colleen Pomeroy
John Shillinglaw

TRUSTEE \$1000+

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Fred & Jeanne Groos
Alan Haney
David & Trina James

Walter & Paula Minder
David & Cindy Worth

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Duncan Pledger
John Shillinglaw
Henry Hoffman estate, for stewardship
of his land

GRANTS

Marathon County Environmental
Impact Fund-Waypost Camp Easement
Stevens Point Area Co-op
1% Fridays Program
Wisconsin DNR Lake Protection
Grant
Waypost Camp Easement
Wisconsin Public Service
Matching Grant

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Jake & Kristin Barnes, in Honor of
Lynn & Justin Isherwood's 50th
Anniversary
Jim & Nancy Canales, in Honor of
Nancy Canales
Sally Overholt, in Memory of
Tom Overholt
John Pierson, in Memory of
"Doc" Pierson
Christine Schmelling,
for Waypost Camp
David & Cindy Worth, Sponsoring
NCCT's June *Cycling for Tomorrow*
Bike Ride

ANNUAL MEETING CONTRIBUTORS

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Bill Clendenning &
Shirley Klapperich
Bob Freckmann
Cathy Eckberg & James Butler
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Elizabeth Trainer
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Jacob Prater
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Janet Smith & Michael LeClair
Jo Seiser
John & Marilyn Houghton
Kerry & Cheryl Brimmer
Margaret & Dave Hillier
Martha & Jim Schuh
Marv Noltze
Melba Sullivan
Meryl Lee Nelson
Mindy & Tim Borchardt
Nancy Stevenson
Nancy Turyk
Ned & Mary Grossnickle
Nichole Besyk
Roger & Dee Zimmermann
Sally Overholt
Susan Wurzer & George Kraft
Tom Wood & Jane Raymond-Wood

SUMMER AND FALL EVENTS

The first *North Central Cycling for Tomorrow* bike tour was an overall success! With a turnout of 69 people ranging in age, background and experience level, everyone returned from the ride with a smile (the beautiful weather helped!). The June 23rd tour began and ended at Central Waters Brewery and featured 4 routes of varying distance in the vicinity of several NCCT easements in the Towns of New Hope and Amherst. Len Markman's easement property was directly on several of the routes, and he offered riders the option to enjoy a nice walk on a mowed trail to the Tomorrow River. After the ride, NCCT displayed information about our conservation mission. This fun and free event was supported by many folks: Heartland Bike Club co-sponsored the ride, and Central Waters and all the Stevens Point bike shops sponsored raffle items. David & Cindy Worth sponsored the room rental at Central Waters, and participants donated \$311 to support NCCT's mission. Keep your eye out for next year, as NCCT and Heartland Bike Club are indeed planning a return to the Tomorrow River area for a second ride!



Lupine, Shillinglaw savanna (Janet Smith photo)

The Saturday, September 22, **Shillinglaw Mekan Prairie Walk & Seed Collection** Event was well attended on a gorgeous sunny day. NCCT's own Bob Freckmann and easement landowner John Shillinglaw led a group of 25 through the 200+ acre prairie and oak savannah. They talked about restoration and management efforts on the land to-date. This event was co-sponsored by Gathering Waters and part of the statewide *Land Trust Days* outreach effort to raise awareness of land trusts statewide. Also attending were members of The Prairie Enthusiasts, a sister land trust that similarly protects land with conservation easements. Mike Carlson, Executive Director of Gathering Waters, attended the event and handed out the Wisconsin Nature Guide, a laminated fold-out guide to plants and animals in the state.

*Please let us know if we've made an error so
we can correct it in our next newsletter.*

We truly appreciate your support!

SAVE THE DATE!

NCCT'S HOLIDAY POTLUCK

Come enjoy the camaraderie of NCCT supporters and conservationists in a beautiful setting on Sunset Lake in Portage County!

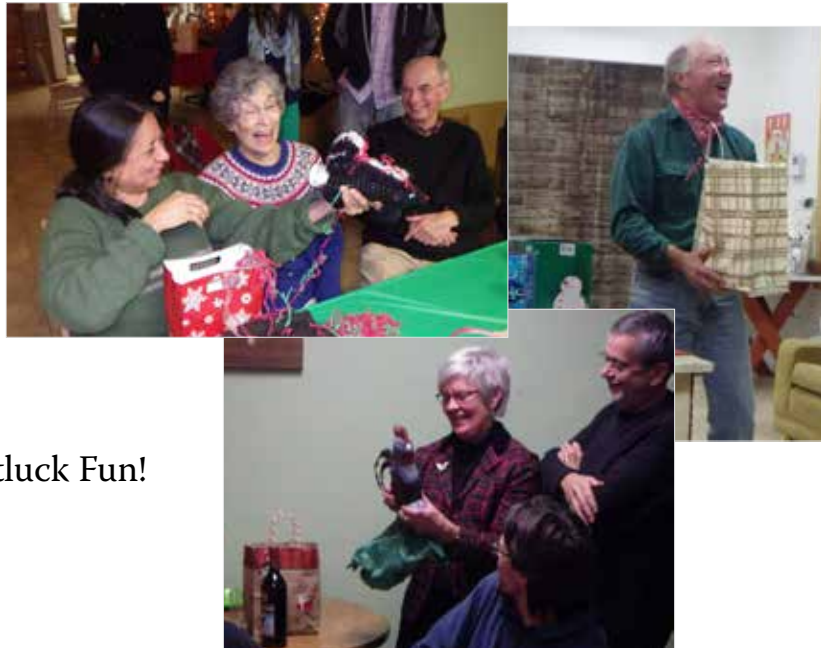
DATE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2018

TIME: 6:00 TO 8:30 PM

LOCATION: CENTRAL WISCONSIN ENVIRONMENTAL STATION, SUNSET LODGE
10186 County Highway MM, Amherst Junction

DETAILS: Bring a dish to pass, hot or cold, your own beverage (coffee and tea provided), plates & utensils, and a gift for the White Elephant gift exchange (1 gift/couple is fine). Recycled, Reused, Regifted, and Home-made items are the norm!

CARPOOL: 5:30 pm from Schmeckle Reserve parking lot if desired. Contact Janet to confirm.



Potluck Fun!

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

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
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Justin Regnier, Treasurer	John Houghton

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Alan Haney	Kay Meyer
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Executive Director

Janet Smith



NORTH CENTRAL CONSERVANCY TRUST
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Working to protect worthy scenic, working lands and environmental resources for the benefit of the people of central Wisconsin.