



North Central Conservancy Trust
Vol. 17 No. 1 **Spring 2018**



The Many Forms of Generosity

Eastern tailed-blue butterfly

Photo by Roger Zimmermann

BUSINESS SPONSORS

Anderson O'Brien Law
Eco-Building & Forestry LLC
Egle Landscaping, Inc.
International Bank of Amherst
Mallery and Zimmermann, S.C.
McDonald Title Company

North Wind Renewable Energy
The Pineries Bank
The Vistas at Greenwood Hills
Wisconsin Potato &
Vegetable Growers Association
The Worth Company

www.ncctwi.org

THE MANY FORMS OF GENEROSITY

Janet Smith, Executive Director

The “Last Hurrah” of winter gifted us in Central Wisconsin with a generous amount of snow this first week of March. If you love Nordic skiing, as I do, you look on the falling snow with a smile and anticipation of a day outdoors in the winter wonderland—even if it is March!

The gifts of Nature encompass a multitude of benefits, but what about gifts to protectors of nature? North Central Conservancy Trust’s work protects the worthy, scenic working lands and environmental resources of this region of Wisconsin. A gift of land to NCCT is one form of giving to our organization, and so is a conservation easement. But what if you do not own acreage or your land does not qualify for an easement? What other ways are there to benefit NCCT? Some ways you can help are detailed below. Additionally, see NCCT Board member and attorney, David James’ article, “Leaving A Legacy,” which includes other ways you can benefit NCCT, including *Tax Tips*.

Sponsor an event or NCCT’s newsletter

NCCT hosts several events each year and publishes two newsletters and our annual report. Each newsletter costs \$526 plus postage for bulk mailing.

Join the Board of Directors or a committee

Our Board of Directors consists of up to 11 members with a variety of backgrounds and experiences. Though many directors are professionals, or have experience in the natural resources and environment fields, NCCT needs others with financial, accounting, business, agricultural, non-profit, real estate, education, fundraising, and public relations skills. Contact a current board member if you are interested or have any questions.

Properties Committee members oversee conservation easement development. If you think you might enjoy learning more about easements and how the process works, this experience may be for you.

Public Relations Committee members help plan events such as the Annual Meeting, and promote NCCT.



Monitor Easement Property

Just what many of our supporters enjoy most! Meeting landowners, learning about their land, and walking some lovely landscapes. Look for our spring monitoring training and sign up to attend!

Join us at an event

The more, the merrier! Come out and show your support for NCCT and have a good time doing it.

Become a member! Enjoy the benefits NCCT provides to you! Events in beautiful places, newsletters, our Annual Meeting, opportunity for community, and most of all, conservation of the places that make Central Wisconsin special.



BOB FRECKMANN: A LIVING LEGACY

Alan Haney

Why do some non-profit organizations, such as North Central Conservancy Trust (NCCT), flourish while others flounder? In nearly every instance, it is because of the dedication and talent of volunteers, many of whom work behind the scenes, avoiding attention. Such a person is Dr. Robert Freckmann.



Most who know him casually know him as “Bob.” Those who are more acquainted know him as a leading regional authority on plant identification. Those who know him best will tell you that he is a true Renaissance man, a leading authority in a technical field of study, who designed and built his own home, an authority on trains, and a scholar of opera and classical music. It is not surprising that Bob is one of the most entertaining conversationalists you’ll ever meet. There’s scarcely a subject about which Bob can’t speak with some knowledge, usually offering a tidbit, if not an entire buffet of little-known information. Of course, you wouldn’t know it unless you have an opportunity to spend some time with him, because he is also quiet and modest. Although he has been officially retired for many years from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point after 40 years of teaching and research, and where he became a legend among the thousands of students he taught, you can still find him nearly every workday at his desk in the recesses of the second-largest herbarium in Wisconsin, a research- and teaching collection of 230,000 plants that he started in 1968 after arriving in Stevens Point. There, surrounded by stacks of books and reprints, and files of plant specimens, he is busy working on his latest project, a treatise on ferns.

One of many enigmas is how a boy growing up in Milwaukee, with relatively uneducated parents, in a modest home, surrounded by pavements and industry, became a leading authority on plants of the Midwest, and leading defender of natural areas in central Wisconsin. When asked, Bob

laughingly suggested that, when all you have in your environment is a few weeds, you come to appreciate them and pay them careful attention. The real answer, however, is his insatiable curiosity about the world, a trait he may have inherited from his father. His mother, who can trace her genealogy to English nobility, gave Bob his appreciation of opera and classical music. Perhaps the merging of German curiosity and English appreciation of the arts resulted in the rare phenotype we know as Bob Freckmann.

Escaping the limitations of the city by way of Washington High School, Bob found that it was biology that most stimulated his maturing mind, and it was the influence and guidance of several teachers that led him to pursue his career through the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Iowa State University. Although interested in many subjects from chemistry to architecture, it was his first course in plant taxonomy that most excited him. When told that grass taxonomy was too challenging for undergraduates, Bob rose to the challenge that would shape his future. He turned down an offer to study at UW-Madison in order to work with the leading grass authority, who was at Iowa State.

Bob was instrumental in the development of NCCT. When a few people in Portage County concerned by development that was threatening natural areas joined forces with a group in Wausau, NCCT became central Wisconsin’s land trust, now serving landowners in eight counties. Bob continues to be one of the primary people who work with landowners who wish to explore a conservation easement to protect their property. In addition, Bob has provided much support for the Ice Age Trail in Portage and Waupaca counties in partnership with his late wife, Sally, and has been a board member and officer of the Aldo Leopold Audubon Society.

It is impossible to summarize the contributions Bob has made to the university, the community, and conservation in central Wisconsin. Much as he began the Freckmann Herbarium in a janitor’s closet, he began promoting conservation before most local people realized that, unless made a priority, our children and grandchildren would not have the beautiful, biologically rich heritage we have enjoyed. What a magnificent legacy he has created, and expands every day. He personifies the old English proverb, “mighty oaks from little acorns grow.”

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE EVENTS!

APRIL

- **Invasive species management field days** with UWSP's Land Conservation Society. Contact Janet Smith at 715-344-1910 to register by the Thursday prior to the event so we can get a head count.
Saturday, April 7: Nancy Stevenson's property, Stevens Point
Saturday, April 28: Laurel and Alan Young's property, Amherst Junction
- **Monitor Training**, *Thursday, April 12, 5-7 PM* at Alan Haney's farm, 1990 Star B Hill Ln, Custer. For all those currently monitoring easement properties, and for anyone who would like to start! Contact Janet Smith to register by email at edncct@gmail.com or call 715-344-1910
- **Wisconsin Prairie Chicken Festival** (<https://www.travelwisconsin.com/events/natural-attractions-and-parks/wisconsin-prairie-chicken-festival-39189>)
Saturday, April 14, 11:00 AM-4:00 PM: NCCT will have a booth at Camp Alexander, Lester Hall, 1053 Camp Road, Wisconsin Rapids

JUNE

- **Midwest Renewable Energy Association's Energy Fair at Custer**
June 15: NCCT workshop on land trusts and conservation easements
June 15-17: Visit NCCT's booth at the Energy Fair
- **Bike for Conservation!** *Saturday, June 23, 10:30 AM:* Free Bike Tour around NCCT easement properties! 4 out-and-back loops from Central Waters Brewing in Amherst. Choose between 5, 15, 25, and 36-mile routes over scenic, rolling terrain. The 5-mile route includes a stretch of the Tomorrow River State Trail, and is perfect for families. After the ride, join landowners who will share a bit of their love for the land and the benefits of conservation easements. Chance to win biking and Central Waters gear, and to enjoy a free beverage!
Contact Janet Smith to register: edncct@gmail.com 715-344-1910

SEPTEMBER

Prairie walk and seed collection *Saturday, September 23:* Join John Shillinglaw, Waushara County. Spread native prairie plants far and wide and learn about the remnant prairie and savanna communities.

OCTOBER

Annual Meeting *Thursday, October 25:* DON'T MISS IT! [Hotel Marshfield](#). Internationally known author and Aldo Leopold Fellow Curt Meine will be speaking about what it means to love a place.

A NEW CONSERVATION EASEMENT IN TAYLOR COUNTY

In February of 2018, NCCT and Duncan and Elizabeth Pledger signed a conservation easement on their 84.5-acre property in the Town of Molitor, Taylor County.

Almost all of the property consists of mature mesic hardwood-hemlock forest in relatively flat to steep morainal topography. Their cabin sits on the edge of the higher ground, which consists of an interesting geological feature known as an ice-walled lake plain. The land slopes steeply down from the ice-walled lake plain to mostly forested wetland.

The property represents excellent wildlife habitat because of the cover diversity produced by the mixture of hardwoods and coniferous forest and the variety of forested and shrub wetland. The perched wetland north of the cabin and significant micro-topographic changes in elevation throughout the forest create ephemeral pools that provide excellent amphibian habitat. The most significant benefit is to species that depend on large tracts of forest, such as migratory birds and far-ranging mammals. The protection of the Pledger property will add to the vast, connected forest of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, which abuts the property on two sides, and the Hines and Douglas Pledger conservation easement properties, which adjoin the forest to the east.

The Pledger easement brings the total acreage protected by NCCT in Taylor County to 579. Congratulations to Duncan and Elizabeth. Welcome to the NCCT family!



LEAVING A LEGACY

David James, Attorney

North Central Conservancy Trust is a 501(c)(3) qualified charity dedicated to preserving worthy scenic, working lands, and environmental resources in Central Wisconsin. Our organization would not exist if it were not for the generosity and vision of people like NCCT's newest conservation easement landowners, Duncan and Elizabeth Pledger, and our other conservation easement donors. Volunteers, such as Dr. Robert W. Freckmann are also a critical component to the continued success of NCCT.

Even if you are not the owner of land suitable for protection, there are many ways you can still contribute to the NCCT mission. Following are some helpful hints, tax tips, and suggestions that you may find useful in determining how you too can leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Volunteer. You do not have to be a preeminent botanist like Dr. Freckmann to volunteer! Contact the NCCT office to find out more about how you can give of your time. ***Tax Tip:* If you itemize deductions on your income tax return, then you may be able to deduct certain out-of-pocket expenses you incur while volunteering, such as transportation expenses.**

Qualified Charitable Distribution. If you are 70 ½ or older, you can make a distribution directly from your traditional IRA to NCCT. ***Tax Tip:* By having a distribution made directly from your IRA to NCCT, the distribution may be counted toward your minimum required distribution for the year but is not counted as income to you.**

Gifts of Cash. A gift of cash (whether by check, credit, or cash) is one of the easiest and most common ways for a person to make a charitable gift.

Gifts of Appreciated Property. A tax-efficient alternative to cash gifts are gifts of appreciated securities or real estate that you have held for more than one year. ***Tax Tip:* Rather than selling the securities or real estate and using the proceeds for the charitable contribution (thereby recognizing the gain and paying the tax), you could gift all or a portion of the securities and real estate to NCCT. NCCT is then able to sell the stock and generally pay no tax on any gain recognized.**

Retirement Account Designations. Naming NCCT as a beneficiary of a qualified retirement account (i.e. traditional IRA) is a simple way to include NCCT in your estate plan without having to change your Will or Trust. ***Tax Tip:* A gift directly from a traditional qualified account to NCCT will avoid both income taxes and estate taxes. Any other beneficiary (e.g. child) will have to pay income taxes on distributions from traditional accounts that he or she may inherit. Of course, it is not an all-or-nothing proposition—you can name both NCCT and other beneficiaries on your account designations.**

Charitable Bequest. A charitable bequest in a will or trust is one of the most popular forms of planned giving. This is a great option if you have assets outside of a qualified account that you want to benefit Check out the NCCT website at www.ncctwi.org for sample language.

Even those of us without land or an easement to donate to NCCT play an important role in protecting the worthy scenic, working lands and environmental resources in Central Wisconsin. Check out the Donate tab at www.ncctwi.org for more details!

Here is some sample language you may consider when including North Central Conservancy Trust in your estate plan:

I hereby make a specific bequest of ***(insert dollar amount or other gift description)** to North Central Conservancy Trust, a 501(c)(3) qualified charity with an EIN (tax id number) of 39-1855857 with a current address of P.O. Box 124, Stevens Point, Wisconsin, or its successor organization, for such uses as its governing board determines appropriate.



INTERN CORNER:
MARYSSA FENWICK

Maryssa grew up in central Wisconsin on her family's hobby farm, calling the 80 acres of forested land behind their property her playground. Growing up playing hide-and-go-seek amongst the large oaks, and picking blackberries along the stream, her love for the outdoors grew. She was an active member of her local 4-H, showing her horse, Oreo, every year at the fair, and continues to serve as a 4-H horse volunteer today.



Maryssa is an undergraduate at UW-Stevens Point, studying land-use planning, with a minor in conservation biology. She serves as the Vice President of The Land Conservation Society at UWSP, leading invasive species-removal work days, and encouraging other students to get involved with conservation needs in their community. As she graduates this May, she is excited for her future in land use planning, hoping to stay involved with land trusts as she makes her way westward.

With a love for Wisconsin, and desire to conserve our natural resources, NCCT easily caught Maryssa's attention. As our intern, some of her duties include aiding in day-to-day operations, running our social media pages, event planning, and serving as the liaison between NCCT and The Land Conservation Society. Maryssa is excited to continue working with NCCT, gaining knowledge about land trusts, and looks forward to expanding connections with NCCT throughout our community!

Correction to Annual Report

Jane Raymond-Wood and Tom Wood were inadvertently omitted as financial supporters of the 2017 Annual Meeting.

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
PO BOX 124 STEVENS POINT WI 54481-0124
www.ncctwi.org edncct@gmail.com 715 -344-1910

Board of Directors

David Worth, President	Nichole Besyk
Jacob Prater, Vice-President	Greg Dahl
Roger Zimmermann, Secretary	John Houghton
H. B. "Butch" Pomeroy, Treasurer	Justin Isherwood
	David James
	Nancy Turyk
	Susan Wurzer

Active Emeritus Directors

Kerry Brimmer
Robert Freckmann
Alan Haney
Jan Seiler
Stanton E. Thomas

Executive Director

Janet Smith



NORTH CENTRAL CONSERVANCY TRUST
PO Box 124
Stevens Point WI 54481-0124
www.ncctwi.org

In this issue: Generosity

Bob Freckmann

Coming Events

New Easement

...and more



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