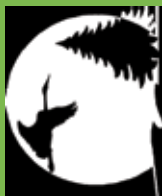


North Central Conservancy Trust  
Newsletter Vol. 18 No. 1 Spring 2019



## NCCT: 25 Years of Land Protection

*Yellow-rumped Warbler*

*Photo by Roger Zimmermann*

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[www.ncctwi.org](http://www.ncctwi.org)

## LOOKING FORWARD

*David James, President*

This past January, the NCCT Board held a strategic planning session at Waypost Camp in Marathon County. Waypost Camp is on Mission Lake, and is one of the many spectacular properties that NCCT has helped protect through a conservation easement. Prior to our meeting, we took some time to walk a portion of this beautiful property and reflect on the work of NCCT. Seeing protected lands is both rewarding and inspiring. Just what we needed to start the day.



After enjoying a wonderful potluck lunch, we gathered around the fireplace to share ideas on how NCCT can continue to conserve the natural heritage of Central Wisconsin through the protection of land. We came away with a long list of priorities and a general work plan for the Board. Our priorities are structured around the following four goals: 1. protecting the land; 2. stewarding our protected land; 3. building a solid organization; and 4. engaging our community.

As I have reflected on the conversations we had that day, and the many since, I have been struck by how much donors, prior board members, committee volunteers, and others have given to get NCCT to where it is today. This truly is a remarkable organization filled with dedicated individuals. I cannot say it often enough—thank you.

I am also struck by how much is still left to do. As properties transfer from original easement donors to new land owners, we find new opportunities and new challenges in stewarding already protected lands. As our number of easements grows, so too do our requirements for monitoring. As we look to engage our community, especially outside of Marathon and Portage counties, the need for more connections to more people becomes even more important. As our staffing needs change, so do our space requirements.

A common refrain from me these days is: “We are here for perpetuity.” This is my shorthand way of saying that we do not have to accomplish everything in 2019, but everything we do in 2019 must be done with an eye to the future. I hope you will join with me and our other dedicated staff, volunteers, and donors as we continue to work to conserve the natural heritage of Central Wisconsin.

Not sure how to help? There are many other ways to give. Of course, financial assistance is always appreciated. If you have not done so already,

please start by spreading the word about NCCT and its mission in your own circle of friends and family. Please also consider volunteering your time. You do not need to be a natural resources specialist or even know anything about how conservation easements work. There are plenty of opportunities to engage. Contact our Executive Director Janet Smith to learn about volunteer opportunities.

Again, thanks to all who have given and continue to give to support NCCT!

## THE MUMFORD GIFT

North Central Conservancy Trust received a remarkable gift on January 15, 2019 when Luigi Mumford gifted her 160-acre property in the Town of Harrison, Marathon County to NCCT. The land includes 3,000 feet of frontage on both sides of the very scenic Eau Claire River, mixed hardwood-conifer forest, wetlands, and a cabin. But one must visit the property to really appreciate its beauty, especially the views of the bouldery, fast-flowing river.

The story of the Mumford family and their land is comparable to many who love wild natural places in Wisconsin, with one key exception: Luigi and her late husband, Manly, placed conservation easements on the entire 160 acres in early 2000. These were the first easements held by NCCT.

The Mumfords acquired the property in 1964, and spent many happy years exploring it with their two children. At the suggestion of their daughter, they decided to investigate the idea of placing their land under easement. The Mumfords worked with Dr. Joe Freeman, one of NCCT’s founders, and Tuck Mallery, another early NCCT supporter, to craft an easement that would protect the river and allow the forest to eventually succeed to old growth.

It is Luigi’s and Manly’s vision that NCCT protect their beloved land in perpetuity, and we will carry out that wish by monitoring the 160 acres annually and ensuring that the easement terms are met. We are grateful for the faith placed in a nascent NCCT by the Mumford family back in early 2000, and for Luigi Mumford’s gift of this wild place so cherished by her family.



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

North Central Conservancy Trust began in Wausau as a small group of passionate volunteers working to protect their land from construction of a utility line. Since our founders' Mary Clare and Joe Freeman's gift in 1996 to fund an endowment through the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin, North Central Conservancy Trust has grown and strengthened over our 25-year history into a land trust with over 40 volunteers and a full-time, paid Executive Director; holding 51 easements and owning 3 properties, with assets over \$1 million including a considerable Operating Reserve. NCCT had no conservation easements until the year 2000, when Luigi and Manly Mumford had enough faith in our tiny organization to donate two conservation easements on their 160 acres in northeastern Marathon County. It is fitting to come full circle 19 years later, with Luigi Mumford's donation in fee of the family's cherished land. This is a spectacular property gift, about which you may read further in this newsletter. In our 25<sup>th</sup> year, NCCT is strong and poised to grow—there is much to celebrate as our organization moves forward! Stay informed on NCCT's latest developments through both our regular newsletter and an inaugural e-newsletter as we continue our mission to *Conserve the Natural Heritage of Central Wisconsin through Protection of Land*.



**WISH LIST** NCCT is looking for the following:

- New Volunteers
- IT Expert to help set up an office computer network, back-up protection, and information-sharing platform for board and committee members.
- Contributions for both our semi-annual newsletter and electronic newsletter: Do you have an exciting nature-related photo or story to share? How about success with an invasive species control effort? Or do you want to share how you or a loved one developed a land ethic? We'd love to hear from you!

**NEW! E-NEWSLETTER** to be debuted online this year. NCCT will be augmenting our outreach correspondence to you, our members, with an electronic newsletter detailing NCCT events and information. The newsletter will be periodic, with email depending on upcoming events or other time-sensitive information. You may be certain that NCCT will not

be sending you email more than once a month, and we never share your information with anyone without your express permission. Please contact us to add your email address to our list so we can send you the latest news!

### **THE KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

#### **needs your support!**

NCCT and land trusts across the state are asking for your help to renew and strengthen the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program. Knowles-Nelson provides funds for cities, counties, non-profit groups, and the state to purchase land for conservation. It funds essential upkeep and maintenance of our waterways, parks, forests, and trail systems. The Ice Age Trail across Wisconsin, snowmobile and ATV trails up north, and boat launches on our lakes and rivers all benefit from Knowles-Nelson funding. County forests stay working forests open to recreation because of Knowles-Nelson grants. Local governments and citizen conservation organizations also receive funds to purchase land for conservation. Knowles-Nelson has funded projects in every single county in Wisconsin. If there's a natural place in Wisconsin that is special to you, chances are Knowles-Nelson has made it better.

Please see NCCT's web page for more information and to take action: [www.ncctwi.org](http://www.ncctwi.org) or <https://gatheringwaters.org/take-action-NCCT#/7/>.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE EVENTS!**

#### **APRIL-MAY**

**Invasive species management field days** with UWSP's Land Conservation Society. Contact Janet Smith at 715-344-1910 or [edncct@gmail.com](mailto:edncct@gmail.com) to register by the Thursday prior to the event for details and so we can get a head count.

Saturday, April 13 - Autumn olive and other invasives cutting, Henderson property, Town of Buena Vista, Portage county.

Saturday, April 27 – Buckthorn cutting, Stevenson property, Stevens Point.

Saturday, May 4-Garlic Mustard pull-fest, Young property, Amherst Jct.

**Wisconsin Prairie Chicken Festival**, Saturday, April 13, 11:00AM – 4:30 PM. (<https://www.facebook.com/events/2144440575602581/>) Register now for tickets at ShowTix4U.com. NCCT will have a booth at Nepco Lake County Park's enclosed shelter, 1410 Griffith Ave, Wisconsin Rapids.

**Walk for the Earth**, on *Earth Day*, Monday, April 22, 5:30 PM beginning at the UWSP sundial. NCCT is a co-sponsor of this walk to bring attention

and action to our planet's changing climate. For questions or more details, contact Susan Zach at [zachfam@wi-net.com](mailto:zachfam@wi-net.com), (715) 572-4312, or Karen Dostal at [kmdostal@wi-net.com](mailto:kmdostal@wi-net.com), (715) 630 8864.

***Broke***, a film about the Santa Barbara Oil Pipeline Spill of 2015, Tuesday, April 23, 7:00 PM, Dreyfus University Center Theater, UWSP, Stevens Point. NCCT is a co-sponsor of this event, which is free to the public. Several oil pipelines run across the land through central Wisconsin and there have been spills in recent history, so this film has local relevance. For more information about the film, go to [www.broketheoilspillfilm.com](http://www.broketheoilspillfilm.com).

**Monitor Training**, Thursday, April 25, 5-7 PM at the Benn Conservancy, Rosholt. For all those currently monitoring easement properties, and for anyone who would like to start! Registration required. Contact Janet Smith to register at 715-344-1910 or [edncct@gmail.com](mailto:edncct@gmail.com).

## JUNE

**Walk Wisconsin Wetlands in the Stevens Point area with the Wisconsin Wetlands Association, part of WWA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year celebration.** Saturday, June 1, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Meet at Schmeckle Reserve Visitor Center parking lot at 9:00 AM to carpool to sites. NCCT hosts this guided hike highlighting wetland diversity on Nancy Stevenson's, Bob Freckmann's, and Alan Haney's properties, which are all protected with conservation easements held by NCCT. Event is free to the public (donations optional though encouraged!), but registration is required due to limited space. Contact the Wisconsin Wetlands Association to register at (608) 250-9971, or email WWA's Communications and Events Manager Emily Buck at [emily.buck@wisconsinwetlands.org](mailto:emily.buck@wisconsinwetlands.org).

- **NCCT's "North Central Cycling for Tomorrow", a Bike tour for Conservation!**

Saturday, June 29, start time depending on distance: 9:30 AM for 50-mi route; 10:00 AM for 30-mi route; 11:00 AM for 15- & 5-mile routes: Free Bike Tour on the roads passing by NCCT easement properties! 4 out-and-back loops from The Landmark Cafe in Amherst. Choose between 5-, 15-, 30- & 50-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 NCCT at the Landmark Café for lunch and to learn a bit about the benefits of conservation easements (lunch at your own expense). Registration required. Contact Janet Smith to register at 715-344-1910 or [edncct@gmail.com](mailto:edncct@gmail.com).

## AUGUST

**Farm-to-Table Potluck Luncheon with NCCT and Farmshed: Food's Connection to The Land**, Sunday, August 11, 11:00 AM-1:30 PM. Shaw property, Amherst.

## SEPTEMBER

It is fitting that NCCT's first easement property has returned to us as a gift, coming to us on NCCT's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary:

**The Mumford Gift: A Celebration**, Saturday, September 14, 10:30 AM. Join NCCT as we honor the legacy of Luigi and Manly Mumford with a walk at this exceptional protected property with the scenic Eau Claire River running through it. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy by the rushing rapids. Carpool from Schmeckle Reserve's Visitor Center parking lot, Stevens Point at 9:00 a.m. The 160-acre Mumford property is in the Town of Harrison, Marathon County. Directions: State Highway 52, about 0.6 miles east of the bridge over the Eau Claire River and 0.25 miles west of North Pole Road. Turn north off the highway onto the gravel road by the "NCCT Event" sign and drive 0.65 miles to the woods where you may park by the house. Contact Janet Smith at 715-344-1910 or [edncct@gmail.com](mailto:edncct@gmail.com) for more information.

## OCTOBER

**DON'T MISS IT-MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Annual Harvest Dinner** Sunday, October 13, 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM: Rothschild Pavilion, 1104 Park St., Rothschild, near Wausau. **Celebrating 25 Years of Land Conservation: Honoring Those Who Laid our Foundation.**

**Correction to Annual Report:** Sharon Schwab and Greg Dahl were inadvertently omitted as *Key Donor* level financial supporters in the last fiscal year. We sincerely regret the error.



Skunk cabbage.

Roger Zimmermann

## 2019 INTERN: JARED BOOMS

Often, I recall memories from my childhood, in the backyard flipping over rocks, peering through cattails, butterfly net posed in a ready position, waiting, searching, hunting for the exact moment to catch the ultimate prize, an elusive leopard frog. These memories serve as a foundation for my love with nature; they provide me with peace and harmony. Derived from



these passions, I shipped myself to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where my current status is a senior. My credentials are similar to the interns before me: a major in Natural Resources Planning, a minor in Sustainable Energy, and a GIS certificate. I pursued these areas of study so that one day I can help preserve and conserve natural landscapes, so that future generations can have similar life-changing nature experiences.

I am a Midwesterner. My family is originally from Harbor Beach, Michigan, I was born in Toledo, Ohio, and in 2000, we moved to Minnesota, just outside the Twin Cities. Over time, I graduated from catching frogs and moved to chasing walleyes, whitetails, smallmouth bass, and upland game birds. I have watched as my rural community of Rogers was absorbed into urban sprawl. Agricultural fields and old-growth forests converted into single family home development right before my eyes. The sprawl grew at the same rate as me—now everything is developed besides scattered green spaces here and there. I'm thankful that the planning commission had enough foresight to preserve an area along the Crow River, which I consider my home river. I am also a river rat.

I spend my summer free time floating rivers and camping, while my winter activities are exclusive to ice fishing, hiking, and lots and lots of school work. In May, I will graduate and continue my job search. I have applied to multiple positions throughout the northern Midwest. I would prefer northern Minnesota along the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, northern Wisconsin, or the Upper Peninsula. My experience here at NCCT has and will continue to provide me with the opportunity for success as well as knowledge that I can pass on to my future career. I look forward to using what I have learned here to help preserve other lands and natural processes. Working at a land trust has inspired me to change some of my goals, one of my new long-term goals is to be a landowner, while my short-term goals are still the same: get a job, get a dog.

## TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT HETEROBASIDIUM ROOT DISEASE

*Alex Feltmeyer and Mike Hillstrom  
Wisconsin DNR Forest Health Specialists*

Heterobasidion root disease (HRD; previously called annosum root rot) is a serious fungal disease that kills conifers. In Wisconsin, red and white pines are the most commonly impacted species but jack pine, white and Norway spruce and balsam fir also can be killed. Pine and spruce plantations are the most susceptible because regular thinnings leave numerous flat stumps for fungal spores to land on and infect. Once a stump is infected, the fungus grows through the roots killing neighboring root grafted conifers. Understory conifers may also be killed if their roots come in contact with roots of infected overstory trees or fungal spores in the soil.



*A pocket of red pine trees dying from HRD infection.*

Michael Hillstrom, WI DNR

HRD kills conifers by attacking the cambium (the food and water conducting tissue just below the bark) and by causing wood decay in the roots and lower stem. The decay often causes infected conifers to snap off near the base. Decay typically progresses over several years, causing decline rather than sudden mortality. Fungal fruiting bodies, that initially look like popcorn, but take on a more typical conk form as they age (see photo 1), grow near the soil line on infected trees. The fruiting bodies each produce thousands of spores that spread via wind to infect new hosts.

The major concern with HRD is that, once it is present in a stand, it is almost impossible to eliminate. Therefore, prevention is extremely important. Landowners should consider applying preventative fungicides to stumps, especially if your land is near a known infested stand. Two fungicides, Cellu-Treat<sup>®</sup> and Rotstop<sup>®</sup>C, are available for purchase. Some loggers have special equipment to apply the fungicide while harvesting or will spray stumps by hand at the end of each cutting day. Landowners can also buy and apply the fungicides themselves. Cellu-Treat<sup>®</sup> is available from Crop Production Services in Plainfield, WI (715-335-4900) or Servco FS

in Antigo, Wisconsin (715-627-4844). Rotstop<sup>®</sup>C can be purchased from Bioforest (<http://www.BioForest.ca>; 1-888-236-7378).

To learn more about HRD, see maps of where it has been found, read the Wisconsin DNR's HRD preventative treatment guidelines or find your local forest health specialist for help identifying HRD, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and use keywords "forest health" or "HRD."



*A HRD fruiting body (conk) on a red pine stump.*

Michael Hillstrom, WI DNR

**CALL TO ACTION!**

You do not have to own land to take an active role in NCCT, nor do you have to be a natural resource professional. If you've ever wanted to get more involved in conservation, and to make a difference in our part of the world, NCCT has a place for YOU!

NCCT wants to hold more events and protect more land and waters in Taylor, Lincoln, Clark, Adams, Waushara, and Wood counties, but we need additional volunteers, members, and supporters to make our efforts successful. You can volunteer to serve, or support us financially in many ways.

**Answer the "Call To Action" by contacting NCCT at 715-344-1910, by emailing [edncct@gmail.com](mailto:edncct@gmail.com), or by donating through our website [www.ncctwi.org](http://www.ncctwi.org), or the mail, P.O. Box 124 Stevens Point, WI 54481.**

**NCCT MEMBERSHIP**

**Yes! I want to join**  **or renew my membership**

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

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

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

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**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:***  
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*Conserving the natural heritage of Central Wisconsin through protection of land.*