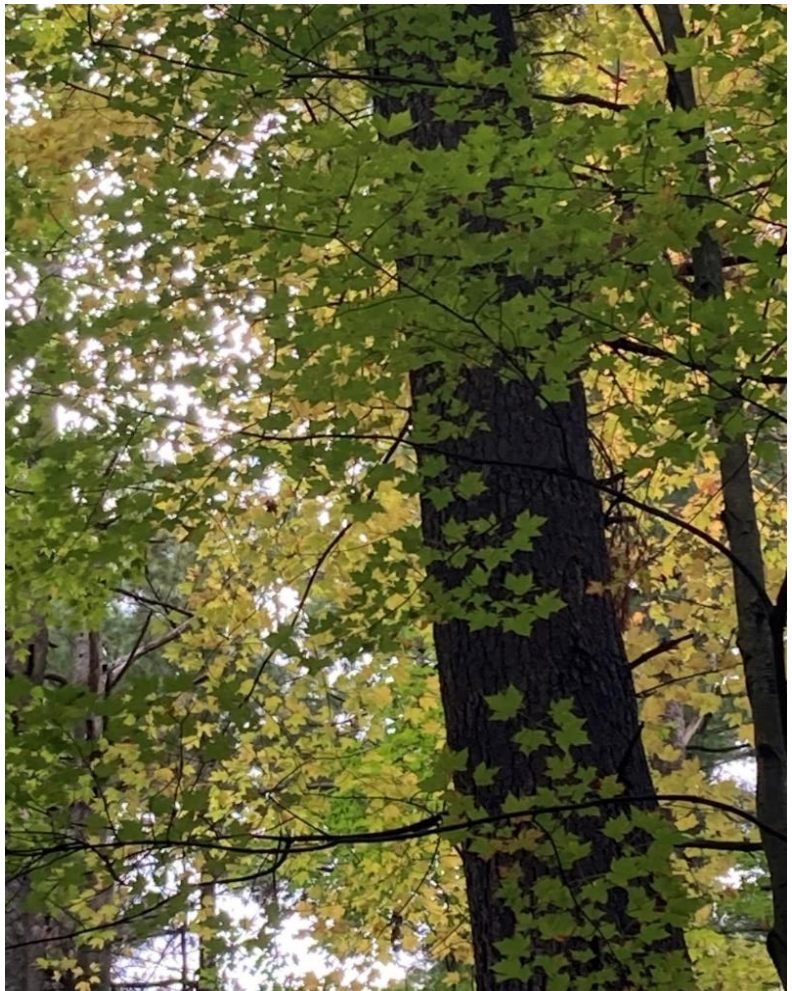




CCLC Field Notes

PG.2 You are invited! Come hear JoAnn Parks speak about beekeeping and pollinators at our Annual Meeting May 31, 2023.

PG. 3 Check out the Chirp Chaser Birdathon team and learn about ways to support the CCLC, the Natural Resources Foundation and our native birds.



Letter from the President

“It Takes a Village”

How do people with a vision and set of values realize their dream? In our culture, they often unite to form an organization. While leaders inevitably arise to carry out leadership roles, it is still the group that powers the vision and values.

Chippewa County Land Conservancy is just such an embodiment of vision and values by a group of like-minded people from our community. Incorporated 23 years ago, our vision of protecting natural lands has not wavered.

Our Conservation Scorecard

1,396 Acres Protected

6 Conservation Easements

7 Properties Owned

1 Property Transferred to Local Government

I hope this annual letter is not the only time each year that you are reminded of the passion and energy you provide to accomplish what we do together. Whether you were on the crew that built a new trail at Boyd Park Preserve or that eagerly learned about new plants on a hike at Joas Preserve, you shared your purpose with all those who came before and after to make this vision real.

All planning and organizing, as well as all of the on-the-ground work, gets done by our incredible members, directors, volunteers, and contributors — all engaged together.

I hope you appreciate the importance of the role you play. As a visionary, contributor, active volunteer, or someone who just takes an interest in this work, you are the conservancy.

This past year we have looked at how our members can become more engaged as volunteers. We include non-director volunteers on our operating committees. We have engaged a crew of volunteers on trail-building projects. We hear from neighbors who are taking active roles in using, defending, prodding, and helping us to manage our preserves. *Continued*



And the private owners who entrust us to ensure that their lands are forever preserved also remind us that we are all “on the same team.”

Now we hope to increase the number of opportunities for members to become more engaged. Hikes and land management are two of the ways. If you have a particular skill or interest to offer, please let us know.

Finally, and perhaps the most important way for you to be part of our team is by being a passionate member. Your support powers the organization, be it financial or non-financial. You don't belong; you are the conservancy. Please think about your membership contribution as how you embody your passion and vision, and please be as generous as you can. Our costs continue to increase, and managing more properties comes with more expenses as well.



Please also remember that sharing with your friends about our work together is just as important. Take a friend along when you visit our preserves to go bird-watching or just for a walk in the woods. Tell them about the work we've done together and invite them to join.

Most importantly, remember that these treasures are your accomplishments. Take a walk at one of our preserves and let nature apply its magic. The experience will energize you and remind you of the importance of our work together.

Richard Smith

2023 ANNUAL MEETING AND SPEAKER

“OUR PRECIOUS POLLINATORS”



When: Wednesday May 31, 2023 6:30 pm

Where: Chippewa Area History Center

Who: Beekeeper JoAnn Parks

Come join us as we listen to JoAnn's fascinating journey as a beekeeper and lover of our precious pollinators.

Following in her father's footsteps, a hobby beekeeper since 1946, JoAnn got her first hive about 10 years ago. She is an active member of the Chippewa Valley Beekeepers Association. Retired from the GIS-mapping world, she spends her days helping on the Ice Age Trail, lending a hand at the historic ZCBJ Bohemian Hall and traveling. Or just sitting around watching her honeybees work.

Notice of Election of Three Directors

Alison Sazama - Alison has served on the board since its inception and currently serves as Outreach Committee chair.

Dan Simonson - Dan has served since 2005 and is an active member of the Land Conservation Committee.

Jeff Brown - Jeff joined the board in 2016. Jeff is Vice President and chair of the Finance Committee.

Additional Annual Meeting Topics

Members in attendance at the annual meeting will have a chance to vote on an amendment to our Bylaws. The proposed change simply changes the number of directors necessary to be in attendance at a meeting in order to be able to conduct business. Our current Bylaws require a majority of the authorized number of directors to be present. The proposed change will require a majority of the directors in office immediately before a meeting begins be present. This follows state law and avoids problems caused when there are unfilled director vacancies.

The full text of the change is available: <https://d.pr/f/nfPLLk>

THANK YOU!

The Chippewa County Land Conservancy extends sincere thanks and gratitude to retiring board members Barb McNaughton and Mike Rivers. Their passion and effort on behalf of the organization is greatly appreciated!



Meet Our New Board Member, Sherry Jasper

Sherry loves being outdoors with a camera in her hand and dirt beneath her feet.

In 1988, she accepted a school counseling job with the Chippewa Falls Schools because of the hilly, glacial topography of the area. Growing up in the Fox Valley she had lakes and rivers but in Chippewa County she saw amazing vistas, woods and hills to climb, too. Sherry spent 32 years at Halmstad Elementary School and retired in 2020.

Some may say Sherry has failed retirement because of her busy calendar. Her focus on children, the environment and service means volunteering with Girl Scouts, Mentor Chippewa, the Ice Age Trail Alliance, and Lake Wissota Improvement and Protection Association. As President of the Board for Our Nawakwa, Sherry is working with a committed group to purchase, conserve and operate Camp Nawakwa near Cornell. She's an elected member of the Chippewa Falls School Board and works part-time as a lifeguard at the YMCA and supervising school counseling interns at UW-Stout.

Sherry lives with her husband Patrick across the street from the family cottage on Moon Bay/Yellow River in the Town of Anson. They have a grown son, Joe and were recently adopted by Grayson, the kitten who emerged from under the backyard deck. Together, they garden and manage their slice of heaven for wildlife habitat. Buckthorn and Honeysuckle, both invasive, are slowly disappearing.

Sherry had this to say about joining the Chippewa County Land Conservancy as a board member and volunteer. I feel honored to join the Chippewa County Land Conservancy. This quality group of individuals is making a difference for all generations to come. Working with landowners, neighbors and volunteers to conserve spaces in Chippewa County while also making them available for folks to enjoy nature is extremely rewarding."



The 2023 Great Wisconsin Birdathon is back! Support the (CCLC) Chirp Chasers MAY 14-20

For the past few years the Chippewa County Land Conservancy has participated in the Great Wisconsin Birdathon. The conservancy's mission is to protect and preserve scenic and natural lands in the Chippewa Valley area. In performing this conservation work the group improves the health of our forests, streams and wetlands thereby providing essential habitat for our feathered friends.

Participating nonprofits in the Birdathon keep 50% of the funds they raise and last year the Chirp Chasers raised \$1,750! Our goal this year is to raise \$2000. These funds are used for outreach activities such as field trips and continued stewardship of our protected lands.

The Chirp Chasers would love your support! You can learn more and easily donate by going to our Birdathon web page at <https://charity.pledgeit.org/t/gZHbJgndXb> Copy and paste this into your browser and follow the easy steps.

Stay tuned!

We are planning more hikes/events this year. For updates and further information visit our website at

www.ChippewaConservancy.org

**MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK...
...OR HEAVY WORK LIGHTER!**

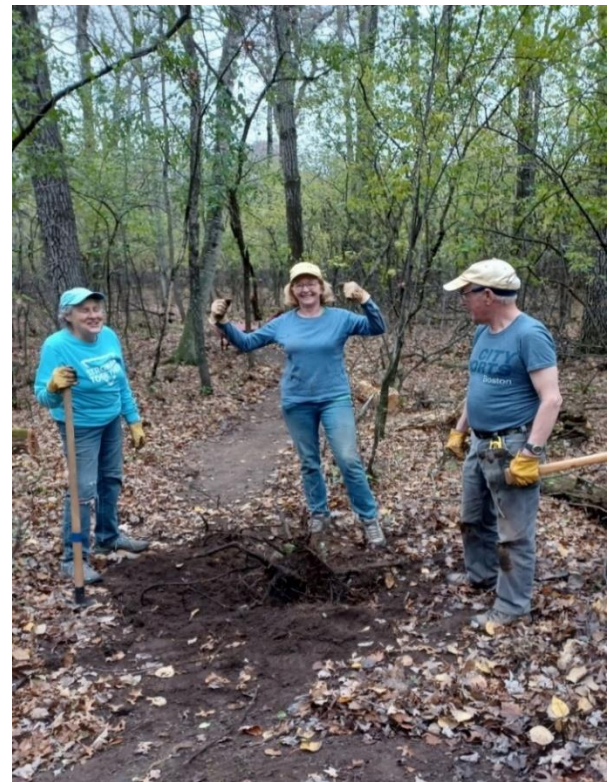
Written By Kathy Mehls

Boyd Park Preserve was the scene of a half dozen dedicated trail blazers last September and October. Thanks to the efforts of Jerry Sazama, master trail designer, and these enthusiastic workers, this beautiful 24 acre woods is now graced with approximately one mile of scenic paths that enter and leave the preserve at four separate locations.

Especially challenging was cutting through a thick forest of mature buckthorn that graces the north end of the property. Future plans include tackling this nasty invasive (with the help of neighbors bordering the Boyd Preserve) and restoring the woods to a healthier version of itself.

It was gratifying to know that this project was encouraged and supported by several key neighbors as well as workers from the Chippewa County Land Conservancy Board and the Ice Age Trail Alliance.

Collaboration is Cool!



Diane Harp, Carol Paulson and Jerry Sazama

YOU CAN HELP!

PLANNED GIVING

Help ensure the future of the Chippewa County Land Conservancy through planned giving. You can leave a bequest to the CCLC in your will, or name us as a beneficiary of your IRA, retirement assets or life insurance policy. Your generosity will help guarantee that nature will continue to share her bounty with all of us through the enjoyment of recreational opportunities on preserved lands.

VOLUNTEER

There are many ways to volunteer:

- Land Stewardship
- Fundraising
- Community Outreach
- Photography
- Trail Work

MEMORIAL AND HONOR GIFTS

Memorial and Honor gifts are a great way to recognize someone who shares your interest in preserving natural lands for people, wildlife, and the environment. You can recognize achievement or memorialize a life lived through your thoughtful gift to Chippewa Conservancy. You may send a check with an enclosed explanation of the person you are honoring or remembering and whom you would like us to notify, if appropriate. You may also wish to use our website to donate via credit card.

- Our mailing address is P.O. Box 884, Chippewa Falls WI 54729.
- Our website is www.chippewaconservancy.org/donate Be sure to click on additional Information to specify the type of gift.

Chippewa County Land Conservancy gratefully acknowledges gifts made in 2022 in memory of lives well lived.

Anka Janik
Steve Terwilliger

Please renew your support today!

And thank you for all you do to preserve natural landscapes in the Chippewa County area.