



# CCLC Field Notes

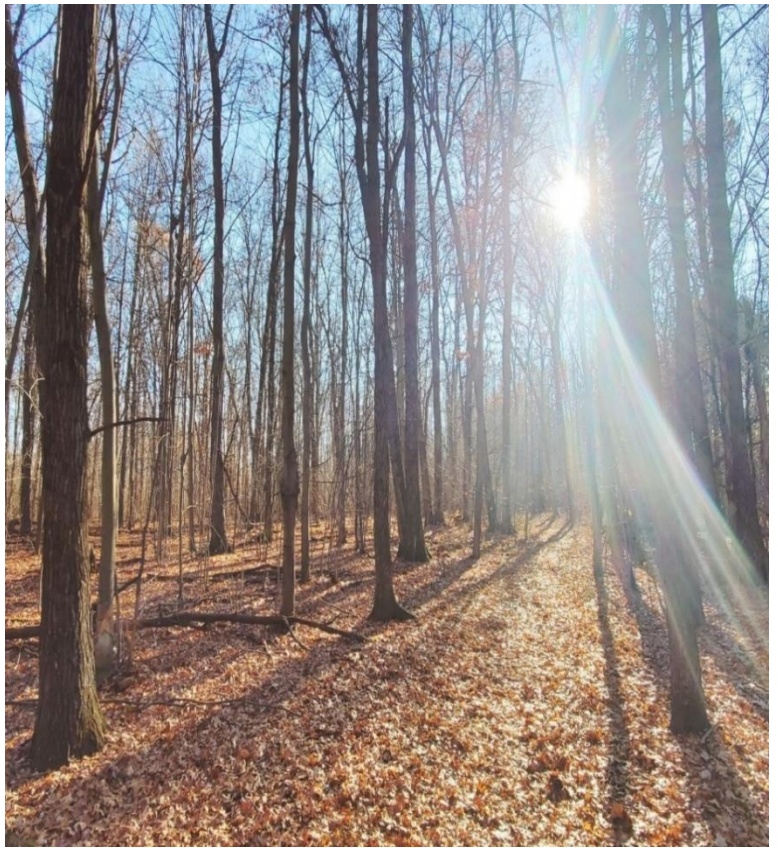


Photo by Dez Lezotte

## Save the date!

Join us for the 2024 Annual meeting  
held via Zoom on  
April 18 at 7:00 PM

\*\*For meeting details see page 2



## President's letter

We are so grateful for your support in 2023. Your continued support in 2024 will enable more action on some of our key priorities, including an emphasis on resilience in the face of climate change.

But first, we wish to acknowledge an exceptional gift from the Vivian Shafer Fund in memory of Rodney, Allen, and Rex Shafer and in honor of Alice Shafer. We are so grateful for the confidence given through exceptional gifts that enable us to meet more significant challenges.

Along that line some of our age-eligible members took advantage of the opportunity to make a gift using a *qualified charitable distribution* from their IRA. For those with a *required minimum distribution*, this is a super tax-efficient way to participate in our work together. Please find out more on our website, [chippewaconservancy.org](http://chippewaconservancy.org). Click on [Donate](#) and scroll down to "More ways to support us."

When many of our original members organized Chippewa County Land Conservancy, their goal was to save local pristine land from development. Twenty-four years later, that is still important, but climate change has added new urgency and priorities. Our specific objectives include

- protecting plants and animals in a way that enables them to adapt.
- Managing our land in ways that will reduce the impacts of climate change overall.
- managing our preserves so they can continue to serve the human community long into the future as places for reflection, nature study, and inspiration.

As a result, we are investigating more active land management strategies, including

- management for "old growth."
- invasives control.

At the same time, we are confronted with local demands for energy transmission and distribution lines on our properties.

Finally, we continue to modernize our record-keeping, improve our management policies, and examine the best long-term structure to meet all our goals.

It is a *brave new world* we are confronted with, and together, we're meeting it head-on. *Richard Smith*

### Our Conservation Scorecard

1,396 Acres Protected

6 Conservation Easements

7 Properties Owned

1 Property Transferred to Local  
Government

## Landowner Spotlight - Polder Preserve



Donated to the Conservancy in 2003, the Polder Preserve was dedicated in memory of Sarah Kennedy Polder by her husband Dr. Gordon J. Polder. The Polder Preserve is essentially a lake, Larabee Lake to be precise, fringed with several acres of northern Wisconsin peatland/bog. An interesting, yet little known fact about the husband and wife landowners, the Polders were psychologists who practiced at Sacred Heart Hospital in the 1980's, using hypnosis to treat their patients for weight loss and smoking cessation.

The 40 acre Polder Preserve resides in the town of Sampson, Chippewa County. Bogs are characterized by high acidity, low oxygen and low nutrient levels which limit the number of plants that can survive and thrive. Sphagnum mosses that occur in deep layers accumulate over time as peat and cause the bog surface to become uneven, with pronounced hummocks. Stepping on a bog can feel like walking on a trampoline!

The Polder Preserve boasts a number of highly specialized plants that are able to tolerate a bogs extreme conditions. Some of the specialized plants that can be found on a bog are Labrador-tea, Blueberries, Cranberries, Pitcher Plant, Bunchberry, Canada Mayflower, Leather-leaf and Bog Rosemary. Two species of trees that grow on parts of

Polder Preserve are Black Spruce and Tamarack.

Bogs provide many benefits to the environment by acting as a sponge for carbon, storing excess storm water, protecting water quality and providing habitat for mammals, birds and insects.

Check out this preserve on our website! <https://www.chippewaconservancy.org/preserves>

**Three Directors seats are expiring.** An election will be held to fill these positions.

**Kathy Mehls** – Kathy serves on the Land Management Committee and has been a board member since 2015.

**Sherry Jasper** – Sherry has been on the board for one year and serves on the Outreach Committee.

**Rosemary Kilbridge** – Rosemary has served as Treasurer for the past 10 years. She is also a member of the Outreach Committee.

### **\*\* To attend the annual meeting:**

- Sign into Zoom on your device
- Click join
- Enter the following meeting ID number - 715-967-2164
- Click join again and you will be admitted to the meeting by the moderator.

**Chippewa County Land Conservancy gratefully acknowledges gifts made in memory and honor of lives well lived.**

Pamela Wachs Baily  
Ray and Bitsy Wachs  
Kristi Lund  
Kemper Woods Walk

Elizabeth Phillips  
Alice Shafer  
Rodney, Allen and Rex Shafer

**The CCLC's Birdathon team the "Chirp Chasers" are heading out once again to participate in the 2024 Great Wisconsin Birdathon.**

To learn more go to our Birdathon webpage at <http://charity.pledgeit.org/t/7pUoFGqMwQ>

## **Please renew your support today!**

Memorial and Honor gifts are a great way to recognize someone who shares your interest in preserving natural lands. Or you may consider leaving a bequest to CCLC in your will, or making a gift using a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA.

To donate online go to [www.chippewaconservancy.org/donate](http://www.chippewaconservancy.org/donate)

**THANK YOU** for all you do to preserve natural landscapes in the Chippewa County area.