

# *Watershed Events*

**CHEERS TO 45 YEARS OF THE CEDAR LAKES CONSERVATION FOUNDATION!**

**By Linda Mutschler, Executive Director**

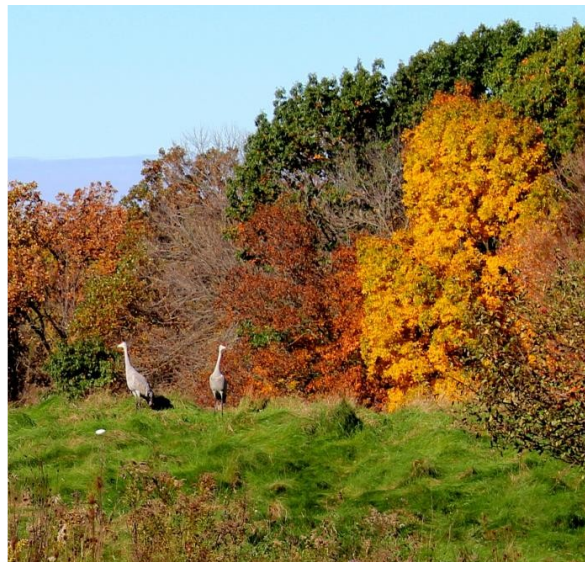
Thank you for contributing to the success of CLCF's mission to protect the natural environment of the Cedar Lakes region over the past 45 years.

**Land Protection:** CLCF has helped to protect over 2,400 acres of land, bringing total conserved lands to 20% of our mission area. This makes the Cedar Lakes region truly unique.

CLCF's focused mission area has allowed CLCF to work hand-in-hand with the community as well as with local, regional, and national partners to protect and care for the natural aspects of our region. This includes the area's diverse natural ecosystems, scenic vistas, sustainable working farms, habitat for recreational and educational opportunities, and healthy watersheds.

**Water Quality:** Since 1974, CLCF's vision has been to sustain the abundant natural beauty, clean water, and biodiversity of the Cedar Lakes region for generations to come.

Every two years, the Clean Water Act requires each state to list as impaired all waters that do not meet water quality standards.



CLCF's efforts have helped to keep Big Cedar Lake, the largest lake in Washington County, off the list of impaired waters, according to 2018 impaired waters data released by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Lakes in neighboring counties that are listed as impaired include: North Lake and Okauchee Lake (total phosphorus load), Lac La Belle (PCBs), and Oconomowoc Lake, Pike Lake and Elkhart Lake (mercury).

Imagine what water quality in our lakes would be like if CLCF hadn't protected land from development and hadn't installed retention ponds to help filter runoff.

**Recent Activities:** In January 2019, CLCF's Board adopted its first Strategic Plan. Since that time, we have been actively implementing aspects of that plan. Other recent accomplishments include.

1) Opening the Joan M. Pick Nature Preserve on September 7, 2019.

2) Completing two land transactions--and in the process of finalizing a third. The Rolfs Matching Grant Challenge raised \$465,000 at 2018's Somewhere in Time. In June 2018, we closed on the Thoma Acquisition for 12 acres; in June 2019,

(cont'd on p. 2)

we closed on a partial sale/partial donation of a 15-acre conservation easement; and now we are working to complete our first collaboration with the USDA's National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to protect an additional 50 acres. In total, these transactions will have protected 77 acres in our mission area at a cost of over \$400,000. We are actively putting your donations to work to further our mission.

- 3) Identifying and prioritizing land conservation targets in our mission area.
- 4) Publishing a comprehensive booklet, entitled *Landowner Conservation Options: A Guide to Conserving Your Land for Future Generations*, for landowner outreach.
- 5) Preparing Land Management Plans for six of CLCF's owned properties.
- 6) Completing baseline documentation and annual monitoring on all our easement properties.
- 7) Acquiring Terrafirma Defense insurance on all our easement properties.
- 8) Adopting a record retention policy and creating electronic records of CLCF's parcels.

### **What about the future?**

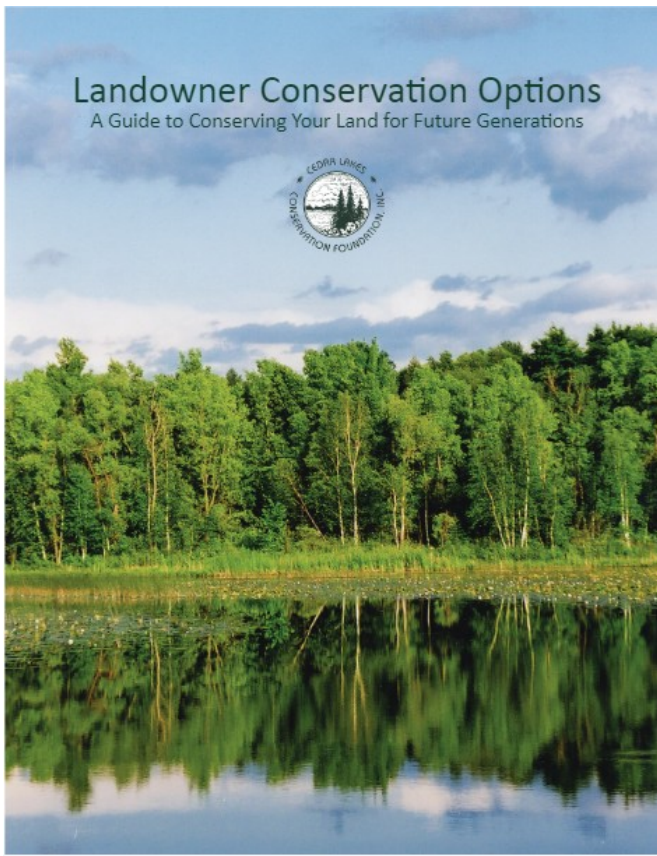
One of our Strategic Planning goals is to protect an additional 600 acres of land over the next five years in order to bring protected lands to 25% of our mission area. We estimate that this effort could cost \$10.7 million. We currently have \$6.2 million on our balance sheet--leaving a \$4.5 million gap.

Presently, we are working on five land conservation projects. If we complete all five, we would protect over 130 acres—at a cost of over \$2 million. We hope that all five come to fruition, but conservation projects often take a significant amount of time to complete and often encounter numerous twists and turns along the way. That said, if we are successful, these transactions would deplete our reserves considerably. This is our challenge. We need to be prepared to take action at any time, especially if a priority property becomes available to us.

Of equal importance is our ongoing operational sustainability. In 2012, CLCF established the *Founders Fund*, a restricted endowed fund. To date, we have grown the Founders Fund to just over \$1 million. Our Strategic Plan's goal is to grow the Founders Fund by another \$1 million, for a total of \$2 million, over the next five years. This fund ensures our ability to continue stewarding CLCF's protected lands into the future.

There are a limited number of ways to make an impact that lasts beyond a lifetime. Protecting land is one of those ways. Thank you again for helping us to conserve the lands you love.





**Landowner Conservation Options**

In August, CLCF published its first booklet for landowners, entitled ***A Guide to Conserving Your Land for Future Generations***. As part of CLCF’s Strategic Plan, adopted in January 2019, CLCF set a goal of protecting the highest priority lands in the CLCF mission area using a diverse array of conservation tools and funding sources. As part of this effort, CLCF is stepping up its outreach activities to landowners in its mission area. The booklet outlines different conservation options and the steps needed in order to bring those options to fruition. If you are interested in learning more—or if you know landowners in CLCF’s mission area who might be interested in protecting their land—please contact us. We would be happy to provide you with a copy of the booklet.



**Grand Opening of Joan M. Pick Nature Preserve**



The Joan M. Pick Nature Preserve stands on a moraine formed in the last Ice Age. Joan M. Pick’s father Andrew purchased the property in 1937, which “Jo” ultimately inherited.

Jo grew to be a woman with strong connections to the land, to art, to learning, and to the community. She lived on the farm for more than 60 years. Her philanthropic efforts and sense of humor became the qualities she was best known for when she passed away a month before her 97th birthday in 2013.

Jo’s wish was to give CLCF the opportunity to create a refuge on the land for all living things, where people could come and enjoy the beauty of nature.



On Saturday, September 7, 2019, CLCF hosted a “Pick-Nic at Pick” for the grand opening of the Joan M. Pick Nature Preserve. Nearly 90 attendees enjoyed the trails, children’s activities, and lunch. It was a great day!

We are excited that the Preserve is now open to the public and are looking forward to hosting more events at the Preserve in the future. Our next event on the property is on October 24th, when we will be hosting a pumpkin carving event for families (see p.5).



## Fall History Talk



CLCF's annual history talk and get-together is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 12th from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the West Bend Country Club.**

You are invited to get a glimpse into the life of Oscar Ferdinand Mayer as told by Frank (Buzz) Carr. Oscar F. Mayer summered on Big Cedar Lake for over 50 years, and his story truly represents the American Dream. His contributions to the meat industry

and his marketing genius are legendary. Oscar F. Mayer immigrated to the US from Wurttemberg, Germany in 1873. He opened his first meat market, Oscar F. Mayer & Brothers, in Chicago in 1883. The cost for the talk and an Oscar Mayer-themed buffet dinner is \$25. **Please go to [www.conservecedarlakes.org/activities-events/fall-history-talk](http://www.conservecedarlakes.org/activities-events/fall-history-talk) to register.**



## Prairie Walk, Talk & Work Event

On Saturday, August 10, CLCF hosted its second Land Trust Days event at the Fox Hill Nature Preserve. The collaborative effort of CLCF, Gathering Waters, the Volunteer Center of Washington County, and Riveredge Nature Center resulted in an educational prairie walk and work event attended by 27 people. The event was featured in GW's Land Trust Days calendar for the year and also was the destination of the Volunteer Center's Do Good Bus Ride. Rachel Feerick of Riveredge Nature Center and Lee Krueger were the nature and history guides, providing background information on the geology, botany, and history of the Fox Hill Nature Preserve. Many thanks to GW, the Volunteer Center, Riveredge, and all our CLCF volunteers and nature lovers for helping us care for and appreciate this beautiful, natural place.



**Please renew your annual membership to the Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation.**



CLCF's goal is to protect key properties in our watersheds so that we can maintain both water quality and the rural character of our mission area for generations to come. With your contribution, we hope to build upon our Land Trust legacy and to preserve the natural beauty, clean water, and diverse wildlife of the area.

Please use the enclosed envelope to submit your donation, or donate online at:

[conservecedarlakes.org](http://conservecedarlakes.org)

Thank you in advance for your support!

**CLCF Nordic Ski Pass**  
**2019-2020 Season Membership Application**



**Name** (last, first): \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Family Members:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

(email address will be used exclusively for communications related to CLCF Nordic and the Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation)

**Individual/Family Membership:**

**\$70**

To download or view a map of our trails, visit our website at [www.conservecedarlakes.org/activities-events/fox-hill-nordic/](http://www.conservecedarlakes.org/activities-events/fox-hill-nordic/). The GPS coordinates of our Sleeping Dragon parking lot are 43°22'10.0"N 88°14'48.1"W



\_\_\_\_\_ **Membership** (includes CLCF Nordic and CLCF annual donation)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Additional Donation**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Total enclosed**

**Checks Payable to:** Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation, Inc. (CLCF)  
P.O. Box 347, West Bend, WI 53095

***THIS RELEASE MUST BE SIGNED AND RETURNED WITH YOUR DONATION AND APPLICATION TO COMPLETE YOUR MEMBERSHIP.***

***I (and my family and guests) recognize that skiing, snowshoeing, and related activities inherently have some risks. I agree to hold harmless the Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation (CLCF), its officers and members from any liability and any and all claims for damages I (or my family and/or guests) might suffer from the use of CLCF trails and participation in activities of the CLCF Nordic.***

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

***You will receive a membership card shortly. Please place the card on the dashboard of your car while in the parking lot.***

Check out ski and snowshoe condition updates for CLCF Nordic at [www.skinnyski.com](http://www.skinnyski.com) or [www.laphampeakfriends.org](http://www.laphampeakfriends.org).

For questions, please call: Jerry Gensch (262) 644-6561 or e-mail Russ Sobotta: [rrsobotta@gmail.com](mailto:rrsobotta@gmail.com).



## Riveredge Family Nature Club and CLCF Collaborate

CLCF and Riveredge Nature Center have begun an exciting collaboration to get people outdoors to learn about and fall in love with the land we care for and protect. The Riveredge environmental education programs are well-developed and have a diverse appeal for many age groups. Their staff is educated, professional, and friendly. CLCF thought it would be a good idea to invite their program capabilities onto our facilities so that we could mount events together using our best strengths.

So far, we have worked together on two events, and we are planning four more for this school year. Riveredge staff were on hand at the Prairie Walk, Talk & Work event in August and at the Pick-Nic at Pick in September (see pages 3 & 4). When we learned that Riveredge runs a Washington County Family Nature Club and looks for outdoor facilities on which to hold their events, we thought that CLCF properties would be a natural fit.



### *What is the Family Nature Club?*

- Family Nature Club provides scheduled family time during the week, where members can work and play outside without distractions.
- Family Nature Club gatherings take place monthly from September to June, with club leaders taking charge of all the organization of trips and activities, allowing families to focus on bonding instead of planning.

Events planned for this school year include:

**Thursday, October 24, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. - Pumpkins of Fun Night at the Joan M. Pick Nature Preserve**

**Thursday, December 12, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. - Natural Holiday Crafts at Polk Kames (the CLCF office)**

**Sunday, February 9, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. - Snowshoe Shuffle at CLCF Nordic**

**Thursday, April 30, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. - Birdbox Monitoring & Construction (location TBD)**



Cassie Bauer,  
Riveredge Family  
Nature Club Program  
Manager

**Pumpkins of Fun Night:** On October 24th, learn how pumpkins grow as well as dissect and carve a pumpkin. We will also play some pumpkin games. All the pumpkin supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring your own as well.

Please RSVP by going to the Washington County Family Nature Club Facebook page and clicking on the Pumpkins of Fun Night Event. There is a link in the event to RSVP. You can also email [rfeerick@riveredge.us](mailto:rfeerick@riveredge.us) with the following information: Name of person registering, number of adults & children, phone, and whether you are a returning member of the Family Nature Club.



Rachel Feerick,  
Riveredge Scientist  
in Residence

## Notice of Annual Meeting 2019

**CLCF's Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2019 at Camp Silverbrook's Jo Ann Mann Lodge, 2561 W. Decorah Rd., West Bend. Please join us from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. for the program.**



Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation

P.O. Box 347

West Bend, WI 53095

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### Administrative Staff 2019

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pgalasso@clcf.info



**Watershed Events** is published by the Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation, Inc., a public non-profit organization committed to the preservation of wetlands and woodlands within the tri-lakes region of Washington County.

**Our most sincere thanks to all those who make this work possible!**

Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation  
PO Box 347  
West Bend, Wisconsin 53095  
(262)353-4866  
[www.conservecedarlakes.org](http://www.conservecedarlakes.org)

**Find and Like us on Facebook**

### Calendar of Events

**Thursday, October 24, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. - Pumpkins of Fun Night w/Riveredge Family Nature Club (RFNC) @ Joan M. Pick Nature Preserve**

**Tuesday, November 12, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Oscar Mayer History Talk @ WB Country Club (WBCC)**

**Saturday, December 7, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. - Annual Meeting @ Camp Silverbrook**

**Thursday, December 12, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. - Natural Holiday Crafts w/RFNC @Polk Kames (CLCF office)**

**Sunday, February 9, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. - Snowshoe Shuffle @CLCF Nordic followed by a Chili Dinner @ WBCC**