



Fall 2021

# Watershed News

Geoffery G. Maclay: Land Trust Visionary by Linda Mutschler

On April 17, 2021, CLCF--and the land trust movement in Wisconsin--lost both a remarkable visionary and a tireless advocate for land conservation with the passing of Geoffrey G. Maclay.

Inspired by land conservation efforts on Nantucket, Geoff established CLCF in 1974. At the time, land trusts were a novel concept, and CLCF was one of the first land trusts in Wisconsin. With the other founders of CLCF, Geoff worked to preserve the scenic and rural character of the Cedar Lakes region that he'd come to love since arriving at Big Cedar Lake in the late 1940s.

Change starts with individual action, and Geoff helped to launch CLCF's bold mission by donating 44 acres of land in the Little Cedar Kettle. That parcel includes a long stretch of Cedar Creek from Little Cedar Lake all the way to HWY NN. Geoff followed up that initial donation with two more gifts of land, including an additional 24 acres in the Little Cedar Kettle as well another 15 acres along Cedar Creek, stretching all the way from the dam at Big Cedar Lake to County HWY NN.

Geoff was a founding member of Gathering Waters, Wisconsin's alliance for land trusts, and in 2006 he was awarded its Harold "Bud" Jordahl Lifetime Achievement Award. Over the years, Geoff worked closely with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the National Park Service, and the Ice Age Trail Alliance to protect the unique Kettle Moraine topography in Washington County. Geoff also served as one of the original architects for Wisconsin's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

CLCF and those who enjoy the land that Geoff has helped to protect are forever grateful for his leadership and dedication. Over the years, Geoff and CLCF have protected nearly 2,550 acres—or 21% of the land in CLCF's mission area. Imagine what this area would look like without that land protection or what the water quality would be.



*Geoffrey G. Maclay (1924-2021)*

Geoff's vision was to sustain the abundant natural beauty, clean water and biodiversity of the Cedar Lakes region for generations to come. CLCF continues that vision to this day.

As we often say at CLCF, "There are a limited number of ways to make an impact that lasts beyond a lifetime. Protecting land is one of those ways."

Geoff Maclay truly embodied the meaning of these words.

He was a champion of conservation, a risk-taker, an innovator, and a pioneer. There is no question that he made an impact that will last beyond his lifetime. His legacy will be enjoyed by and will benefit generations to come.

CLCF will continue to further Geoff's life work conserving the natural environment of the Cedar Lakes region, but we will greatly miss his wisdom, his wit and his determination.

Thanks to all CLCF Volunteers!

CLCF would like to thank all its volunteers for their work this year. To date, CLCF volunteers have logged over 960 hours from stewardship activities, events, meetings, and office support. There is no question that we will exceed 1,000 hours by year-end—which is just incredible!

### **CLCF's Stew Crew**

Thanks to Meg and Joe Jansky for their leadership as CLCF's Stew Crew Coordinators and to all the Stew Crew volunteers who have come out to help during 2021.

CLCF's Stew Crew started out the year in the snow at the West Property up near Gilbert's Lake, where they learned how to treat glossy buckthorn while trying to keep their snow boots on. This can be challenging!

As spring arrived, Stew Crew turned its attention to tree tube maintenance. It was exciting to see the trees continue to grow across CLCF's properties. At Timmer's South, volunteers removed most of the remaining tree tubes as the trees have done so well that they are no longer needed. Many of the trees that Stew Crew volunteers planted at the West Property in May 2020 survived the winter and were sprouting up in the spring.



*Earth Day Tree Maintenance on the Mueller Parcel*

With spring came the return of Garlic Mustard Pulls. A hearty crew hiked about 15 minutes into CLCF's Girl Scout Property on a Saturday morning, pulled Garlic Mustard for three hours and then realized they had to carry out all the bags. It was a serious work out!

There was Thistle cutting in the Timmer's pollinator prairie and at the Joan M. Pick Nature Preserve, where the thistle was almost as tall as the volunteers. Several brave souls also went into the Mueller prairie to work on eradicating Wild Parsnip.

Starting in the fall, CLCF has again partnered with Project Wingspan, where a number of Stew Crew volunteers gather seeds from the Joan M. Pick Nature



*Stew Crew at the Joan M. Pick Nature Preserve*

Preserve in order to help populate other prairies in Wisconsin and across the Midwest.

Finally, CLCF wants to give a special thanks to those who have adopted preserves and who help to maintain them throughout the year. Thanks to Teri and Rich Czarnecki for the Genthe Property, Cindy Rusher for her work at Rudolf, John Schmidt for doing a wonderful job taking care of the trails at the Thoma Preserve, Kine and John Torinus and Chuck McGrady for their work on the Torinus Property, and Jerry Gensch for all his work at Fox Hill, both in the summer and in the winter at CLCF Nordic.

We still have a few more Stew Crew events planned for the fall. If you have an interest in coming out to join us, check CLC's website for more information regarding dates and times at [www.conservecedarlakes.org](http://www.conservecedarlakes.org). We'd love your help!

### **CLCF's Event Volunteers**

Thanks to Mary Beth Carr for her event planning leadership and to all the volunteers who have come out to help during 2021 to make CLCF's events a success. It is truly a team effort and would not have happened without many hours of volunteer support. CLCF events are a wonderful way for CLCF's members to learn more about CLCF--and each other.

There was the Snowshoe Shuffle on a freezing cold and blustery day in February, the Silver Lake Kayak Tour in June, the Crane Talk in August and CLCF's Donor Thank You event, hosted by Didi and Paul Reilly, at the West Bend Country Club in September.



*Thank You Event Hosts Paul and Didi Reilly*

In addition, CLCF has launched a series of neighborhood get togethers so that people can learn more about CLCF's land protection and stewardship efforts. There are Coffee and Conservation mornings and Cocktail and Conservation evenings.

Thanks to Chris and Karl Fiasca for hosting residents of Artist Bay Road and Trackett Drive in August, Cindy and

Jack Rusher for hosting residents of Boettcher Drive and Cedar Park Drive in September, and Donna Sprinkman and Ken and Kathy Klein for hosting residents of Mueller Lane, Arbor Vitae Drive and Birchwood Drive in October. These have been a wonderful way to connect with old friends and to meet new ones! If you would be interested in hosting an event in your neighborhood, please call Linda Mutschler at 414-614-5084.



*Sue Trester, Russ Darrow and Cindy Rusher*

To date, these outdoor activities and social events have reached over 300 people. That's 300 people who had a fun time and learned about CLCF. Again, thanks to all the volunteers who helped out with these events. CLCF could not have done it without you

#### **Legacy Circle Donor – CLCF Board President Denise Goergen**

I've been fortunate to spend 26 years on Big Cedar Lake, nurturing my children's love of the outdoors. Getting involved as a volunteer for CLCF, now as its Board President, was a natural progression: I love this land and its rich rural heritage. Investing in the land through CLCF's Legacy Circle was another natural progression. I was able to **plan today to give tomorrow**. It was easy to join CLCF's Legacy Circle. I merely designated CLCF as a beneficiary of my 401(k) plan. It took me less than five minutes to leave a legacy! Please join me in making a Legacy Circle gift. You too can designate CLCF as a beneficiary of your 401(k), IRA, or life insurance policy. Or, as they say, **where there's a will there's a way!** Include a bequest provision for CLCF in your will or estate plan.

**The time to act is now.** CLCF is close to completing a \$20,000 Legacy Circle Challenge. Two generous couples challenged our new Planned Giving Program with a \$20,000 matching grant. Every time a CLCF donor commits to the Legacy Circle, CLCF receives \$1,000. Since launching the Challenge, 15 donors have joined and \$15,000 in matching funds have been released to CLCF's operating budget. Thank you to our new Legacy Circle Members! If you have made the decision to honor CLCF in your retirement or estate plans, please let us know so we can **thank you** and include you in our Legacy Circle. For more information about planned giving options, please complete and return the enclosed envelope or contact me at 414-881-9081 or Linda Mutschler at 414-614-5084. Any gift, large or small, helps to fulfill CLCF's mission.

I want my grandchildren to enjoy Big Cedar Lake and CLCF's preserves. **Land is the best investment for future generations**--not just for people but also for the eagles, sandhill cranes, deer, fish, and wildflowers that share this special place I call home. Please give a permanent voice to your conservation values by making a Legacy Gift to CLCF. It's never too early and never too late to think about leaving your legacy.



Growing Beetles to Tackle Purple Loosestrife  
By Jaron Cook

This year marked the first year that CLCF grew Cella Beetles at the Joan M. Pick Nature Preserve to help with Purple Loosestrife management. Over the last fifteen years, Lee and Mary Krueger had grown the beetles on their property for CLCF and others. We are incredibly thankful to both Lee and Mary for their dedication to CLCF and the land of the Cedar Lakes region.

Invasive species are a major challenge for maintaining wildlife habitat and biodiversity on CLCF's protected lands. One such species, Purple Loosestrife, is a wetland plant native to Europe, Africa, and Asia that was brought to the Great Lakes region in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century through the nursery trade and in ship ballasts. Purple Loosestrife tends to occupy wetlands and shorelines, where it can produce upwards of 2 million seeds per plant per year. Left unchecked, Purple Loosestrife can convert some of Wisconsin's most biodiverse habitats into monocultures in a matter of years.

These Purple Loosestrife monocultures reduce or eliminate sensitive breeding habitat for birds, fish, and amphibians and alter local hydrology in ways that can make water unnavigable. All these factors make controlling Purple Loosestrife a land management priority for CLCF.

While herbicides are usually invaluable tools for controlling invasive plant species, using herbicide in aquatic habitats requires special chemical formulations to reduce negative impacts on aquatic life, and even these can still damage the reproductive systems of fish and amphibians. Instead, CLCF employs a strategy known as biocontrol to manage Purple Loosestrife. Biocontrol typically involves introducing a predator, parasite, or disease that already curbs the competitiveness of the invasive species in its native range. Historically, there are famous botched biocontrol experiments that had huge, unexpected consequences like the Cane Toad in Australia and the Asian Mongoose in Hawaii. Today, biocontrol agents are subjected to decades of research before being approved as management tools. In the case of Purple Loosestrife, CLCF employs a type of beetle known as Cella Beetles, which were one of the first biocontrol agents to be approved for use in the United States. Cella beetles are excellent biocontrol agents because they are obligate to



*Cella Beetle on a Purple Loosestrife Plant*

Purple Loosestrife, meaning that their entire lifecycle is fully dependent on Purple Loosestrife.

This year, CLCF released Cella beetles to Gilbert Lake and Paradise Valley Lake. In the case of Paradise Valley Lake, we are trying to stop a small population of Purple Loosestrife from gaining a foothold, and on Gilbert Lake we are chipping away at a large population that takes up over half of the lake's existing shoreline. Over time, the beetles will reduce the cover of Purple Loosestrife and allow native species to germinate from the existing seedbank in the soil. Amazingly, many native plant seeds can persist in wetland soils for decades in the absence of draining and plowing.

Diverse plant communities form the backbone of our ecosystems, and our lakeshores are no exception. If we want a future that includes pristine landscapes and bountiful wildlife, we need to do our part today to protect the smaller things that support the land and water we love.

If you'd like to learn more about Purple Loosestrife biocontrol in Wisconsin, please visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/loosestrife.html>. There, you will be able to learn more about Purple Loosestrife, the science of biocontrol, and how to get involved in Wisconsin's Purple Loosestrife biocontrol program.



## Calling all X-Country Skiers and Snowshoers to join CLCF Nordic and embrace winter!

CLCF Nordic is a membership category within Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation Inc. (CLCF) that provides access to parking and expertly maintained x-country classic and skating trails at the Fox Hill Nature Preserve and more open, rustic x-country trails at the Rudorf Farm. Snowshoeing is permitted on both preserves.

- The Fox Hill Nature Preserve parking lot is at 4214 Sleeping Dragon Road, West Bend, WI.
- The Rudorf Farm parking lot is at 5020 Division Road, West Bend, WI.

Visit [www.conservecedarlakes.org](http://www.conservecedarlakes.org) for directions, to download trail maps and to complete your 2021-2022 Season application and waiver online. Day Passes are available online or on-site at the Fox Hill Nature Preserve.

You can also complete the form below, sign the waiver on the back of the form and enclose with payment in the envelope provided. Check for updated x-country ski and snowshoe conditions at [www.skinnyski.com](http://www.skinnyski.com) or [www.laphampeakfriends.org](http://www.laphampeakfriends.org).

### 2021-2022 CLCF Nordic Ski Pass / Family – Individual Membership - \$75

Primary Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email addresses will be used exclusively for communications related to CLCF Nordic and the Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation.

\$75.00 **Nordic Membership**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Optional Additional Trail Maintenance Donation

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed

**Please Make Checks Payable to: Cedar Lake Conservation Foundation  
and return in the enclosed envelope. *You will receive your Nordic Season Pass in the mail.***

**REMEMBER TO SIGN THE WAIVER ON THE BACK OF THIS FORM**

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the CLCF office at 262-353-4866.

**RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY  
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!  
THIS IS A LEGAL DOCUMENT THAT AFFECTS YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS**

This Release and Waiver of Liability (“Release”) is executed by the undersigned Nordic Member and, if applicable, additional family members and on behalf of minor child(ren) in favor of Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation, Inc. and its officers, directors, employees, volunteers and agents (collectively, “CLCF”).

In consideration for CLCF permitting access and use of the Fox Hill Nature Preserve for skiing, snow shoeing, walking, hiking and any other recreational activity (“Activities”), I agree to the following of behalf of myself and, if applicable, my minor child(ren):

I waive, release and discharge CLCF of any claims, liabilities, demands of whatever kind or nature, either in law or in equity arising from bodily injury, personal injury, illness (including communicable diseases such as COVID-19), death or property damage to myself or my minor child(ren) as a result of participating in Activities whether such claims or liabilities arise from my negligence or the negligence of CLCF. I understand that this Release does not release and discharge CLCF from liability or a claim for harm caused by the intentional or reckless acts of CLCF.

**Assumption of Risk:** I further understand that the Activities may be hazardous to myself, and if applicable, my minor child and that such hazards could include bodily injury, personal injury, illness (including communicable diseases such as COVID-19), death or property damage. I represent that I am familiar with the hazards related to or arising out of the performance of the Activities. I further represent that I have the education, experience, and/or skill to participate in the Activities in a safe, efficient and proper manner. As provided in this Release, I hereby expressly and specifically assume the risk of injury or harm to myself and, if applicable, my minor child arising from the Activities. I have reviewed and understand all of the terms and conditions of this Release and believe them to be reasonable. I acknowledge that I had the opportunity for this Release to be reviewed by legal counsel and I either had such review performed or chose not to have such review performed.

**Additional Provisions:** I expressly agree that this Release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the State of Wisconsin, and that this Release shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Wisconsin. I agree that in the event any clause or provision of this Release is held to be invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity of such clause shall not otherwise affect the remaining provisions of this Release, which shall continue to be enforceable.

I understand I have the right to negotiate the terms and conditions of this Release by contacting CLCF prior to participating in the Activities and that my participation in the Activities without negotiation is deemed to be my acceptance of the Release’s terms and conditions.

On behalf of myself and my minor child (if applicable), I have executed this Release as of the day and year written below.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name of Minor Child: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name of Minor Child: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name of Minor Child: \_\_\_\_\_

CLCF's Fall History Talk – The Lehman Rosenheimer Family



CLCF's Annual History Talk and get-together is scheduled for **Thursday, November 11th from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the West Bend Country Club.** You are invited to get a glimpse into the lives and stories of the Lehman Rosenheimer Family while enjoying a menu reminiscent of Rosenheimer's Resort on Big Cedar Lake.

This event is sponsored by:



Lehman Rosenheimer came to be known as the Merchant Prince of Washington County. He emigrated to the United States from Germany in 1842 with approximately \$200 in his pocket, eventually settling in Slinger (then called Schleisingerville). With the help of his family, he built one of the largest and most successful country stores in the state of Wisconsin, such that "the trade of nearly all the adjoining towns" centered on his store. His sons expanded into Kewaskum and purchased extensive properties on both the east and west sides of Big Cedar Lake.

The cost for the talk and Rosenheimer Resort themed dinner is \$65. Please register online at <https://www.conservecedarlakes.org/activities-events/2021historytalk/>

Visit CLCF's Fall Store for Great Holiday Ideas!

This fall, CLCF's online store will be open between October 14 and October 31. We've chosen selections with nature and the outdoors in mind. Shop the store for men's, women's and children's clothing and accessories that will be a perfect fit for holiday gifts.

It's a great way to support CLCF. A portion of each purchase benefits CLCF's programs and helps you to get ready for winter! Orders are sent directly to your home.

Here is your CLCF shopping link: <https://clcffall2021webstore.itemorder.com/sale>



**Thank you for your support of the Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation**

CLCF's goal is to conserve key properties in the Cedar Lakes region so that we can preserve the natural beauty, clean water, and diverse wildlife of the area for generations to come.

Five years ago, the amount of undeveloped land in our mission area was about 3,300 acres. Now that number is closer to 2,700. That's nearly 600 acres that no longer reflects the beautiful rural landscape of this place you have come to love. CLCF is working to conserve vital parcels within those remaining 2,700 acres while also stewarding the lands already protected.

Please use the enclosed envelope to submit your donation. If you prefer to donate online, please visit our website at:

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

Thank you in advance for your support. You are critical to our success!



Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation  
P.O. Box 347  
West Bend, WI. 53095

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### Administrative Staff

Linda Mutschler, Executive Director  
lmutschler@theclcf.org

Jaron Cook, Stewardship Coordinator  
jcook@theclcf.org

Traci Cooper, Office Manager  
tcooper@theclcf.org

### Annual Meeting Notice

CLCF's 2021 Annual Meeting will be December 4, 2021 at  
9:00 AM at the West Bend Country Club

**This event is sponsored by:**



### Upcoming Events

Nov 11, 2021	Rosenheimer Family History Talk
Dec 04, 2021	CLCF's 2021 Annual Meeting
Feb 12, 2022	Snowshoe Shuffle
Jun 18, 2022	CLCF's Somewhere in Time Gala

Please visit [www.conservecedarlakes.org](http://www.conservecedarlakes.org) for more  
information

**Watershed Events** is published by the Cedar Lakes  
Conservation Foundation, Inc., a public non-profit  
organization whose mission is to conserve the natural  
environment of the Cedar Lakes region.

Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 347  
West Bend, WI. 53095  
(262)353-4866

CLCF's office is located on the grounds of the Joan M. Pick  
Nature Preserve at 5975 County Hwy Z, West Bend, WI.

We look forward to seeing you!