



Watershed News

Fall 2024

3,000 Acres and Beyond

From Linda Mutschler, Executive Director

What an incredible evening it was on August 24, when 316 of CLCF’s supporters came to the Schloemer Family’s Paradise Valley Farm to celebrate CLCF’s 50th anniversary.

Thank you to Jim and Andrea Schloemer for hosting CLCF for this very special celebration. It was a gorgeous sunny summer evening.



Cocktail hour at the Schloemer’s Paradise Valley Farm

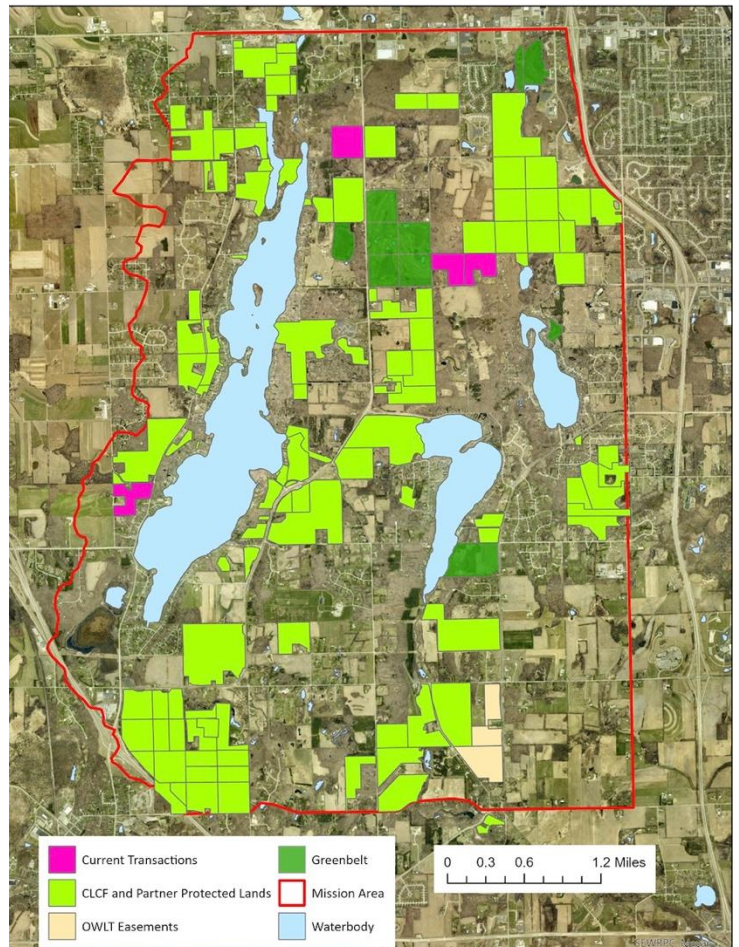
Thank you to the Darrow Family for their generous \$500,000 matching grant as well as to West Bend Insurance Company for their \$250,000 matching grant. Thank you to all our sponsors, whose support was critical to the event’s success. Thank you to Mary Beth Carr, Cindy Mestan, and all the Somewhere in Time volunteers for their incredible hard work.

And, thank you to all of you, our donors, for your support. In total, between sponsorships, live auction donations and proceeds, and the raise-the-paddle and matching grants, CLCF raised a net of over \$2.1 million. We could not do the work we do without your support.

Thank you!

Three More Land Protection Projects Completed!

CLCF is pleased to announce that over the past two months it has closed three land protection projects totaling over 133 acres. These transactions are highlighted in pink below. All three properties are adjacent to existing protected parcels and provide a wonderful mix of habitats—including woodland, farmland and wetland.



Map of CLCF’s Newly Acquired Properties (in pink)

With these transactions, CLCF has helped to protect 3,096 acres in the Cedar Lakes region—passing our 3,000-acre 2019-2023 strategic plan goal. Our 2024-2028 strategic plan targets a total of 3,600 acres. We are well on our way toward that goal!

The Burkepile Property

On July 30, 2024, CLCF closed on the purchase of the 62-acre Burkepile property, which lies just west of Scenic Dr and north of Paradise Dr in the Town of West Bend. This property is south of CLCF's Girls Scouts parcel and west of the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Wisconsin's Camp Silver Brook.

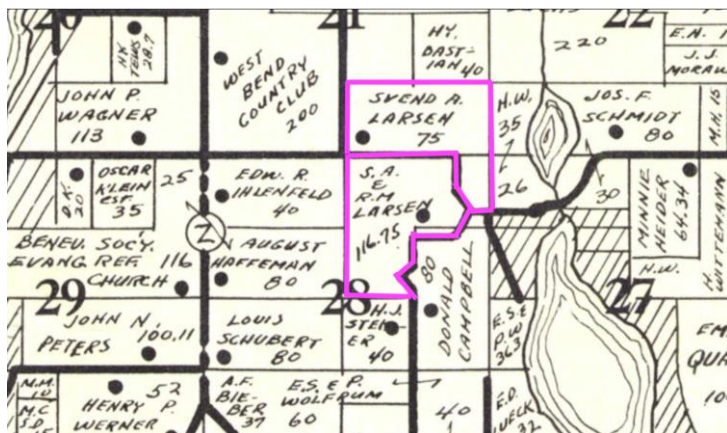
CLCF is grateful to Diane Burkepile's children, Jana, Cindy, Brian and Jon, for their desire to conserve this property in its natural state.



The Burkepile Property

History: In 1954, Diane's father, Svend Larsen, a Danish immigrant, was doing carpentry and painting work on a home owned by Fritz von Schleinitz in Colorado Springs, CO. Fritz was Rene von Schleinitz's son (and Edie von Schleinitz Maclay's brother).

When Svend completed the work on the home in Colorado Springs, in lieu of payment, Svend and Fritz entered into a swap, whereby Svend acquired 75 acres of land north of Paradise Drive and 116.75 acres south of Paradise Drive in exchange for a building that Svend owned in Manitou Springs, CO.



Lands Svend Larsen Received in West Bend, WI

Svend and Rose Mae then restored and settled in the log cabin that was at the corner of Paradise and Scenic.



Diane Burkepile and Svend Larsen (with children in lap)

In 1955, Svend and Rose Mae sold the land to the south of Paradise Drive to Douglas and Marian White, who then sold the land to Dr. Gaymont. That farm is now known as the Schloemer Family's Paradise Valley Farm.

After Svend died in 1959, Rose Mae moved back to Colorado but kept the land north of Paradise Drive. Although the log cabin was later sold, Rose Mae passed the remaining 62 acres onto her daughter, Diane Burkepile, who kept the land the rest of her life. Brian Larsen, Diane's son, recalls visiting the log cabin during the summers when he was a child.

The Burkepile property contains wetlands, a savannah habitat, a pine plantation, and an oak-dominated hardwood forest. The rolling hills are representative of the glacial moraine topography of the region.

Over 40% of the property is designated as Primary Environmental Corridor by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC). Primary Environmental Corridors are areas in the landscape which contain especially high value natural, scenic, historic, scientific, and recreational features. In Southeastern Wisconsin they are generally found along major stream valleys, around major lakes, and in the Kettle Moraine.

CLCF is looking forward to working with the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA) to extend the Ice Age Trail through the Burkepile property in the future in order to eliminate approximately ½ mile of road-walking.

The Weningen Property

On August 23, 2024, CLCF closed on the purchase of the 32-acre Weningen Property from the Jack E. and Catherine M. Weningen Revocable Living Trust.

This property features farmland and woods and is located on the corner of HWY 144 and Division Road in the Town of West Bend. The property is directly south of CLCF's Rudorf Farm and is close to Big Cedar Lake.

More than half of the property's soils are categorized by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as prime farmland and soils of statewide importance. These soils have the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing crops with minimum inputs of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides and labor.



Aerial Views of the Weningen Property

History: This property was part of 230 acres that Elisa Adelaide Weil purchased from the United States of America on February 1, 1848. In the 1880s, the Weils sold this parcel – and another 40-acre parcel south of Highway K – to Louis Funk (1849-1929). According to Lee and Mary Krueger, Louis came to the US from Germany. He married Albertina Wenzel, and together they worked the 80-acres of land.

Louis's son, William Funk (1885-1944) married Alma Arndt and had six children. Following William's death, Alma continued to work the farm. Ultimately, Alma's daughter, Irene Gessner, took over the farm.

In 1975, Irene sold the farm to Jack Weningen. Prior to their purchase, Jack and his father, Roman, had rented the land since the 1950s.

Currently, John and Luke Weningen, of L-J Farms, Inc. lease the land and will continue to do so.



View of the Weningen Parcel

CLCF is grateful to the nine Weningen siblings for their willingness to conserve this property.



CLCF Board President Mike Nast and John Weningen on August 23, 2024

The Owen Property

On September 20, CLCF completed the purchase of the 40-acre Owen Property, which lies south of the Town of West Bend Town Hall and includes a portion of the County Road Z wetland complex. The Owen Property is directly across County Road Z from CLCF's Pick Wetland and a quarter mile north of CLCF's Joan M. Pick Nature Preserve. CLCF sincerely appreciates Todd and John Owen for their commitment to conserving this ecologically significant property.



Aerial Views of the Owen Parcel

Todd and John Owen's passion for conservation stems from their mother, Anna Lou. Anna Lou was a woman ahead of her time—earning a PhD from the University of Wisconsin in 1952 and spending the majority of her career as a professor of Economics at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

History: The Riesch family has been in the Town of West Bend since 1855, when Peter John Riesch, Anna Lou's great-grandfather, arrived from Switzerland. Peter's grandson Ben owned 149.25 acres at the north end of Big Cedar Lake. By the late 1920s, Anna Lou's mother, Amelia owned this land, and Amelia's husband, Louis J. Riesch operated the Riesch Dairy, later known as the Cedar Lake Dairy.



Anna Lou Owen

According to Anna Lou Owen, the grazing cattle meandered the uplands of the Owen property until Cedar Lake Dairy ceased operations. Ultimately, Anna Lou Owen owned approximately 65 acres of the former farm, including what CLCF refers to as the Owen Property. Todd and John Owen have fond memories of exploring the upland woods and lowland wetlands of the Property and felt that the best way to honor their mother's legacy was to conserve the land for future generations.



The Owen Property

The upland forest on the Owen Property is dominated by maples, shagbark hickory, and basswoods, with a few ephemeral ponds scattered throughout. The upland slopes down to the east, where the wetland stores rainwater throughout the year, letting sediments settle out as it funnels water underneath County Road Z toward Silver Creek. The entire property is designated as Primary Environmental Corridor by SEWRPC due to these impressive qualities.

Rural Communities Land and Water Pilot Grant

On August 14, at CLCF's Rudorf Farm, Josh Schoemann, County Executive, presented a \$500,000 grant to CLCF as part of the Rural Communities Land and Water Pilot Grant Program. The pilot program aims to conserve green spaces, water resources, and farmland within the county. Additional objectives of the program include flood prevention, protection of water quality, and safeguarding the county's rural heritage.



Check Presentation at the Rudorf Farm

Following the grant presentation, attendees participated in a Walk & Talk, which focused on the conservation practices in place on the farm. Washington County Conservation Staff talked about the grass waterway and two berms to help conserve water resources and prevent soil erosion that have been in place on the farm for nearly 25 years.



View of the two Berms at the Rudorf Farm (the lighter areas in the left background and right foreground)

Allen Dornacker of Dornacker Prairie Acres talked about his farming practices on the property, including no-till, cover crops, and the use of inter-seeding. CLCF is grateful to Allen Dornacker, Washington County Land Conservation Staff, and Cedar Creek Farmers for their efforts to improve the quality of soil and water in the Cedar Creek watershed.



Allen Dornacker of Dornacker Prairie Acres

Looking ahead, CLCF is eager to continue its partnership with Washington County, as we work toward a future which balances development with the protection of farmland and open space as a shared priority.

Washington County's grant represents not only financial support but also a commitment to preserving the area's natural beauty, clean water, and biodiversity for generations to come.

Welcome Max Whealon – Operations Coordinator

In July 2024, Max Whealon joined CLCF as its new Operations Coordinator. At CLCF, Max will be splitting his time between operations and stewardship.

Max is originally from Fond du Lac, WI. He graduated in 2017 from St. Norbert College with a BA in Psychology. After college, he moved to Reno, NV to pursue a service term with AmeriCorps, where he worked for Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation. At Truckee Meadows, he worked during his first year in program management. During his second year, he worked on restoring an abandoned public golf course back into a functioning wetland.

In his free time, Max enjoys fishing, kayaking, woodworking, and playing with his cat Cheese Curd.



Please Support CLCF's Race for Open Space!

Please consider helping CLCF achieve its goals—especially as we work to grow protected land. Here's how you can help:

Annual Giving

By making an annual contribution, you can support CLCF's land protection projects, stewardship activities, education and recreational events.

CLCF Nordic

By joining CLCF Nordic, you help support CLCF's x-country ski activities and stewardship of the Fox Hill Nature Preserve.

CLCF's Capital Campaign

By committing to CLCF's Capital Campaign, you can help CLCF achieve its \$12-\$16 million capital campaign goal. If you would like more information, we would be delighted to meet with you.

How to Donate:

You can use the enclosed envelope, scan the QR codes, or go to www.theclcf.org/support-us/make-a-donation/.



CLCF's Legacy Circle Planned Giving Program

We are keenly aware that the responsibility of caring for the land that CLCF has protected is a timeless endeavor. To that end, we ask that you consider becoming part of a special group of CLCF land conservation supporters by joining CLCF's Legacy Circle Planned Giving Program.

There are two funds to which you can direct your donation: Conservation Support, which will be used for all facets of CLCF's operations, and the Founders Fund, an endowment fund named for CLCF's visionary founders. The interest and appreciation from this permanently restricted fund will help support CLCF year after year. For more information, please contact Linda Mutschler at 414-614-5084 or Kathy Klein at 414-614-4698. With a legacy gift, you can help to preserve the lakes and lands you love for generations to come.





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 Rudolf Farm parking lot is at 5020 Division Road, West Bend, WI.

Visit www.theclcf.org for directions, to download trail maps and to complete your Season Pass 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 or www.laphampeakfriends.org.

2024-2025 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

Scan here to
sign up online:



**Please Make Checks Payable to: Cedar Lakes 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 CLCF's 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: _____

Extending the Ice Age Trail in CLCF's Mission Area

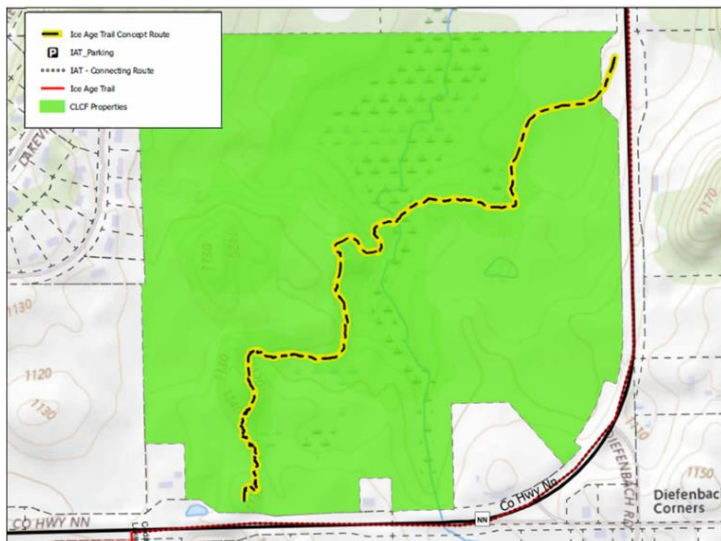
CLCF is thrilled to announce that it will be continuing its partnership with the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA) by adding the Ice Age Trail to more of CLCF's protected properties. The Ice Age Trail traverses the entire state of Wisconsin and showcases the natural beauty and glacial landscapes of the state while providing opportunities for outdoor recreation and connection with nature. Of the 1,200 miles of the Ice Age Trail, approximately 700 miles are in natural areas, while 500 miles remain road-walks.

In the Cedar Lakes region, there is currently a 5.3-mile road-walk between the Cedar Lakes Segment of the Ice Age Trail at Polk Kames and the start of the West Bend Segment at CLCF's Lockman property on Paradise Drive.



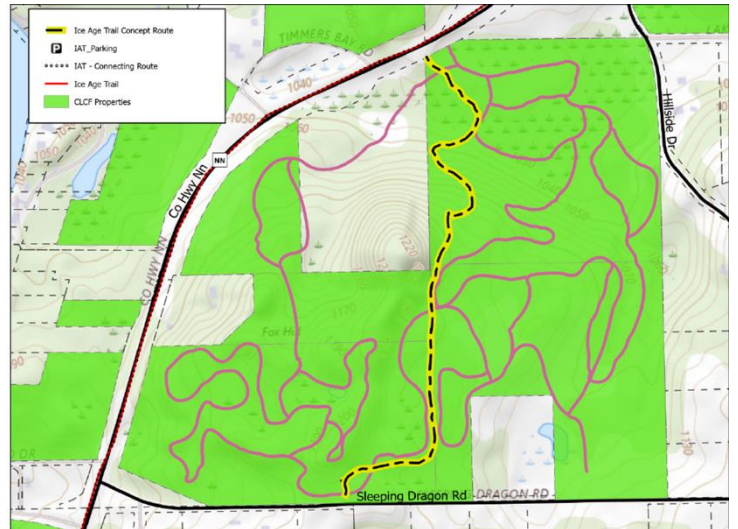
View of Hembel-Lidington Looking towards BCL

Ultimately, CLCF and IATA hope to eliminate nearly half of this 5.3-mile road-walk. Adding the Ice Age Trail at Hembel-Lidington and at the Fox Hill Nature Preserve are the first steps in this process.



Proposed Ice Age Trail Segment at Hembel-Lidington

CLCF has signed a license agreement with IATA to address trail development, construction and maintenance. In 2025, IATA will begin construction of the trail across CLCF's Hembel-Lidington property. In addition, IATA will be overlaying CLCF's existing snowshoe trail to take hikers from Sleeping Dragon Road, through the Fox Hill Nature Preserve, and back out to County Hwy NN at the small pull-off parking area.



Proposed Ice Age Trail Segment at the Fox Hill Nature Preserve

This new segment will allow Ice Age Trail hikers to experience the beauty of the Fox Hill Nature Preserve's upland forests.



Shooting Stars at the Fox Hill Nature Preserve

CLCF is also looking forward to working with IATA on adding the trail to the newly acquired Burkepille property. CLCF and IATA hope that this work can begin in 2026. CLCF is grateful to the Ice Age Trail volunteers, who work to maintain the Cedar Lakes Segment at Polk Kames and the West Bend Segment at Lockman.

CLCF's Race for Open Space – 5K Trail Run and Walk, 10K Trail Run and 1-mile Walk

**Sunday, Oct 13, 2024 at 9:00 am
Location: Fox Hill Nature Preserve**

Get outdoors and join CLCF in its 3rd Annual *Race for Open Space 5K Run and Trail Walk, 10K Trail Run, and 1-mile Trail Walk* at CLCF's Fox Hill Nature Preserve! Bring your family and friends to enjoy the gorgeous fall colors while supporting a good cause. CLCF is grateful to Emily Hurd and Cindy Rusher for co-chairing this event and to Jerry Gensch for getting the trails ready for race day! CLCF also extends its heartfelt thanks to our sponsors, whose generous support makes this event possible.



CLCF Thanks These Generous Sponsors



CLCF's Annual History Talk – From Schleisingerville to Big Cedar Lake

**Thursday, October 17, 5:00 – 8:00 pm
Location: West Bend Country Club**

Join us for the history of the Jenner, Heinemann and Kasten families from the early days of Schleisingerville to the creation of Heinemann Point (now fondly known as Echo Point). Anita and Bill will capture your imagination with the fascinating story how their families came to Big Cedar Lake. Tickets are \$75. Sign up soon! Capacity is limited, and seats are going fast!



Sponsored by:



SAVE THE DATE – CLCF's Annual Meeting

**Saturday, December 7, 2024, 9:00 – 11:00 am
Location: The Cedar Lodge at Cedar Community**

Save the date for CLCF's Annual Meeting at the Cedar Lodge on the Cedar Community Campus. Join us to review a year of land conservation, stewardship efforts, outreach events, and more.

CLCF's Annual Meeting is sponsored by:



Thank You to All Who Supported, Volunteered or Attended Somewhere in Time!!!



Volunteer Spotlight – Mary Beth Carr and Cindy Mestan

There truly aren't enough words to express the immense gratitude we feel for the time, energy, and creativity that Mary Beth Carr and Cindy Mestan put into making CLCF's 50th Anniversary Celebration at the Schloemer Family's Paradise Valley Farm such a resounding success.

As long-standing members of CLCF's Community Relations Committee, Mary Beth and Cindy consistently bring an extraordinary level of organization, dedication, and professionalism to everything they do.

Mary Beth's leadership and dedication were instrumental in ensuring the event's success. From the initial planning stages to the event's final moments, she poured her heart into every aspect of the evening. Cindy's incredible talent for selecting colors, flower arrangements, and table settings perfectly complemented both the venue and the event's theme. Together, they are an unstoppable team, and CLCF is deeply grateful for their contributions, not just to this celebration, but to every event they touch.





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

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Sarah Moore, Stewardship Coordinator
Nicole Tennes, Development Coordinator
Max Whealon, Operations Coordinator

Upcoming Events

Race for Open Space 5K Trail Run/Walk, 10K Trail Run and 1-Mile Wile. Join us at the Fox Hill Nature Preserve for CLCF's 3rd Annual Race for Open Space. Sun, Oct 13, at 9:00 am. Sponsored by Russ Darrow Automotive, West Bend Insurance Company, R&R Insurance, Horicon Bank, Oarsman Capital, Schloemer Law, Stafford Rosenbaum, and Milwaukee Ski Club/Fox Hill.

Annual History Talk. Come learn about the Jenner, Heinemann and Kasten families when Anita Hauske and Bill Kasten present *From Schleisingerville to Big Cedar Lake*. Thurs, Oct 17, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm at the West Bend Country Club. Sponsored by Strategic Wealth Partners.

CLCF's Annual Meeting. Join us for CLCF's 2024 Annual Meeting at the Lodge at Cedar Community. Sat, Dec 7, 2024, 9:00 to 11:00 am. Sponsored by Oarsman Capital.

To register for these events and more, go to
theclcf.org/events/

The Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation, Inc. (CLCF) is a non-profit land trust whose mission is to conserve the natural environment of the Cedar Lakes region.

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

Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation, Inc.
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262-353-4866

For more information, please visit
theclcf.org

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