

Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation

Protecting Water, Woods, and Wildlife for Future Generations to Enjoy

FALL 2010

Saving the Places We Love: A Legacy Gift

By Britta Reque-Dragicevic

When Jim Harlow was a small boy in Iowa, he used to wait impatiently for the precious day each summer when his parents would pack up the family and drive up to the Leech Lake area. Soon, the open fields would give way to pine-lined roads, the hot, humid air would settle into a cooler sun-drenched breeze and rows of cornfields would be replaced by endless woods to explore. As for many children, the most important part of summer would be the first jump off the dock and a swim in the cool, clear waters Minnesota is so famous for. Those summer vacations instilled in Jim a profound love for Minnesota's lakes and woods. It is in his honor, that shortly after his untimely death in 1997, his family donated land to the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation (LLAWF)-land that would become a living memorial.

The LLAWF's mission is to help conserve the natural spaces and shorelines in the Leech Lake watershed, which encompasses most of Cass County, the western third of Hubbard County, and small southern tip of Beltrami County. While people often donate land to the Foundation out of a desire to preserve wildlife and natural habitats, the Harlow family wanted to create a memorial that

would go on living to honor not only Jim Harlow, but also another man who was passionate about the Great Outdoors-his father-in-law, John Baird.

It was a match meant to be when Jim Harlow met John's daughter, Mary, one lucky summer while enjoying time up at the lake. After marrying, Jim and Mary soon built a small rustic log cabin on part of 40 acres her dad had purchased in the early 1970's. That land was on Long Lake, adjacent to May Lake just outside of Walker, and it included what had once been a famous camp for girls: Camp Danworthy (later operated as Camp Fish and now private property).

"Our cabin was the focus of our family life," said Mary Harlow, at her home in Minneapolis. "I remember coming up to the lake when our daughter was a newborn-it was so peaceful and natural-I'd sleep when the baby slept-and we'd lay out on a quilt in a field of wildflowers." Mary describes her father's land as full of mature pines, open meadows, and pristine lakeshore. The Camp section was in park-like condition, and she and her extended family enjoyed many years in the existing rustic cabins and lodge there.

Jim had found a kindred spirit in Mary. Her love for nature was handed down by a grandfather, William Baird-a surgeon for the Union Pacific railroad who in the 1800s had pioneered into the West and eventually helped plan the city of Boulder, Colorado. He left "Baird Canyon" as a legacy to the city there. Mary's father, John Baird, grew up hiking the mountains with a donkey in tow and followed his father's adventurous spirit for exploration. A geologist and scientist, John would be credited with early computer development for NASA and worked to help develop underwater radar. It was his deep love and respect for nature



Baird-Harlow Legacy AMA on Long Lake

that led him to purchase the former Camp Danworthy property and adjacent acreage.

"My dad was intent on preserving Camp Danworthy and would not divide it up into lots. He waited until someone would buy the camp as a whole and when he did sell that section of his property, it became Camp Fish," Mary Harlow said. "Today, the lodge has been restored and that land is still quite well preserved."

The Harlows continued to return to their property on Long Lake. "Jim and I just loved our land," Mary said. "We would come up every weekend from summer through fall and for one week between Christmas and New Years. Jim had a canoe that he'd haul on his shoulder and would explore a different lake every weekend. He just loved being up there."

The Harlows have two children, Matthew and Katharine. Matthew's young son will soon be coming to spend the summers with his Grandma Mary at Long Lake. The love for nature is a legacy Mary can't help but pass down.

Cont. on page 2

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Saving the Places We Love, continued

"This was our family time-being at the lake. Jim was a trial lawyer and I am a psychologist and so coming up here was such a wonderful escape. We taught our children the names of all the wildflowers, and Jim was a birder-he had a long list of birds he had spotted over the years. The land was always so beautiful-there are around 60 kinds of wildflowers-the field would be a blaze of color, brilliant with flowers and just a paradise for the birds," Mary recalled.

It was an unexpected illness that took Jim's life in August of 1997. He was forty-nine years old.

"We were shocked. Of course, no one expected this to happen. He was so young," Mary recounted.

In the hours before he died, Mary had the opportunity to ask Jim what his wishes were for his burial.

"He wanted to be cremated and he said he wanted his ashes strewn over the little bay where he and the kids had caught so many panfish," Mary said. "So that's what we did. And I knew after that that I could never allow anyone to build there. I started thinking about how to preserve the land."

Mary contacted the U.S. Forestry Department who put her in touch with the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation. She decided to donate approximately 19 acres, including 300 feet of shoreline on Long Lake to the Foundation. The Foundation discussed her wishes for the land and she asked that it be permanently preserved. The donated land was named the Baird-Harlow Nature Preserve. The Foundation took care of the legal paperwork and Mary reports that the process went "very smoothly."

"Land is the most wonderful memorial you can give because it lives on," Mary explained. "You can give money for buildings, but buildings and man-made things are eventually torn down. The land continues to live. I can look back now and smile-I know that this was Jim's favorite place and he would be happy to know that it is being preserved."

Editorial Note: Please consider a gift of real estate to preserve the "places you love."

In 1998, the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation donated the land to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to be permanently preserved, protected, and managed as an Aquatic Management Area (AMA), now named the Baird-Harlow Legacy Aquatic Management Area. The Harlow family's gift was the Foundation's first gift of land. Today, more than 13 years later, that first gift has been leveraged into 33 completed land conservation projects preserving over 2,000 acres of land, including 15 miles of critical shoreland. The Foundation welcome's additional gifts of land and memorial donations to insure there are more "places we love" preserved for future generations to enjoy.



Plates with a Purpose

Ever wonder what those special deer, loon, boat, or fish license plates are all about?

They are Critical Habitat License Plates for your vehicle that were first created in 1995 to provide an opportunity for citizens to contribute to the conservation of Minnesota's natural resources. With an annual minimum contribution of \$30, the money generated from the plates goes into the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Fund. The Minnesota DNR uses this fund to buy and manage important critical habitats throughout Minnesota to be protected as public land and open to the public to enjoy. e.g. Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), Aquatic Management Areas (AMAs), and Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs).



Since its inception, these plates have been purchased by more than 110,000 Minnesotans and have generated \$20 million plus for the purchase of critical

habitats. Currently, these plates are generating over \$300,000 a month for critical habitat purchases. A small portion of the money is used to help fund nongame projects such as nesting surveys, lakeshore restoration projects, or other habitat projects that benefit nongame species like the loon, bald eagle, or trumpeter swan.

Many of LLAWF's land conservation projects were aided by the RIM fund. Most notably is the Mule Lake Project that protected a 360-acre parcel of prime fish and wildlife habitat that included 13,400 feet of undeveloped shoreline on Mule Lake and 2,000 feet on Donkey Lake. Thanks to RIM funds, LLAWF's project facilitation, the donations of over \$88,000 by Mule Lake Property Owners, and partnerships with the DNR and over 20 other organizations, the area is now protected as the Mule Lake Wildlife Management Area.

Purchase a Critical Habitat License Plate to support LLAWF's conservation work and the protection of critical habitats throughout Minnesota.

What Does the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation Do?

- Identifies and protects sensitive lands and waters in the watershed through land conservation projects, often in partnership with county, state, and federal governments; other non-profits; lake associations and sporting groups.
- Accepts donations of land and/or helps conservation-minded landowners explore options for selling their land while preserving its conservation value as a legacy for ongoing public enjoyment.
- Facilitates the establishment of conservation easements on private properties to prohibit or limit future development and preserve conservation value while the landowners still retain ownership and use of the land.
- Provides education on individual and community responsibility for stewardship through workshops, publications, and partnerships with lake associations and professional organizations.
- Promotes land-use decisions and regulations by local and state governments that will ensure sustainability of the watershed's natural resources.

Reasons to Protect the Natural Resources of the Leech Lake Watershed

- Fishing- sport and commercial
- Boating and sailing
- Swimming
- Water skiing
- Canoeing
- Hunting and trapping
- Scenic values
- Protected and endangered species
- Wildlife habitat
- Wildlife viewing
- Residential and commercial development
- Timber production
- Cultural and historical values
- Water quality protection
- Water supply
- Wild rice harvesting
- Community economic sustainability
- Enhanced quality of life



Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation

Mission: The Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation whose mission is to promote activities that preserve and sustain the natural resources of the Leech Lake watershed for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations.

Board of Directors:

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At the LLAWF annual meeting on September 14, 2010, retiring directors were honored for their donation of time and talent to protect the natural resources of the Leech Lake watershed. In the left photo, Pat Larson, LLAWF past chairperson, presents a plaque of recognition to Jack Shaffer, a board director for seven years and former chairperson of the Tri-County Leech Lake Watershed Project, and to Kathy Kovar in posthumous recognition of her husband John's dedication to LLAWF and its mission for five years. In the right photo, Doug Payne receives recognition as a director for six years and key player in the completion of the Lantern Bay project. Thank you Jack, John, and Doug! The board is currently seeking interested individuals to join the LLAWF board of directors and oversee the Foundation's conservation efforts.

Chair's Remarks

Ray Payne, Chairman

I'm sitting outside writing this message on a beautiful fall day. How fortunate we are to be able to share in the beauty of the woods, the lakes, and enjoy the sounds of wildlife and waves lapping on the shore.

I joined the board of directors of the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation (LLAWF) in 2006 because I value our natural resources. Prior to retirement, most of my career involved planning, design, and construction of projects related to wastewater treatment in the Twin Cities Metro Area.

In the fall of 2009, I accepted the challenge of chairperson of the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation, succeeding Pat Larson who retired after seven years as chairperson. During Pat's tenure, many miles of shoreland and acres of precious wooded lands were preserved. Having been involved in natural resource protection for many years, Pat told me she gained the most satisfaction when she was president of the Mule Lake Association, during which she helped spearhead the Mule Lake Wildlife Management Area project, and then later as chair of LLAWF. I'm pleased to

say that Pat is continuing her involvement with LLAWF as secretary of the current board of directors. Thank you, Pat, for your years of service to protect the natural resources of the Leech Lake watershed.



Over the past 13 years, LLAWF has played a key role in preserving over 15 miles of critical shoreland. I want to thank and give credit to the private landowners and the retired board directors who worked endlessly towards this huge accomplishment. I especially want to thank Ted Mellby, the founding father of the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation, who since the mid-90s had the foresight and dedication to complete these conservation projects.

If you are thinking about preserving your shoreland and/or forested lands, let us help! Please contact the Foundation to learn more about various options to consider in preserving the natural condition of the land you love.

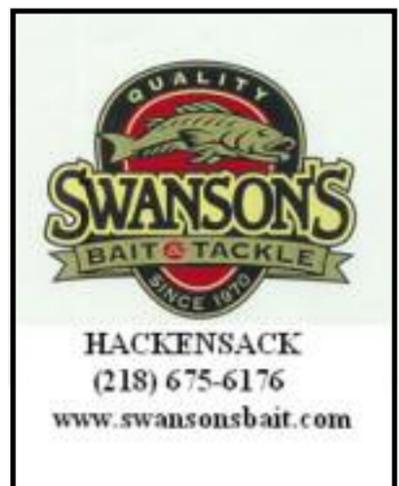
We Need Your Support

You can help support the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation in its work to protect the water, woods, and wildlife in this special region of Minnesota in the following ways:

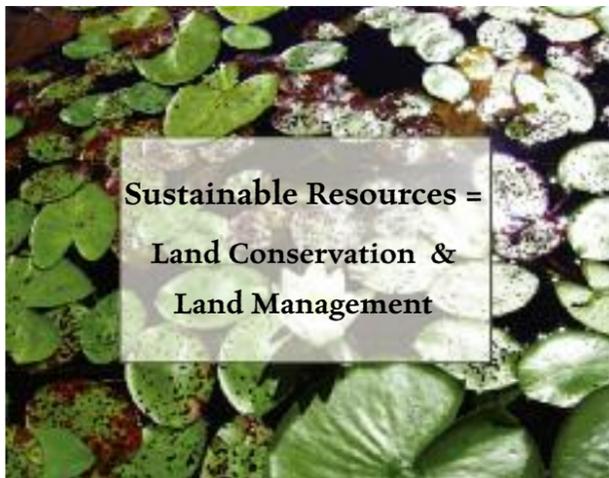
- **Donate cash.** Your monetary donations help support specific conservation projects, delivery of stewardship education, and partnerships with local government and other nonprofits to protect the natural resources of the watershed. Memorial gifts are an excellent way to honor a loved one's appreciation for the natural resources of our region or their special place. Cash donations are fully IRS tax-deductible.
- **Give securely online at GiveMN.org.** You can make secure, fully tax-deductible gifts online at GiveMN.org. Search for Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation. Donate on "Give To the Max Day" on November 16 and your donation may be worth an additional \$1,000 to LLAWF.
- **Donate land or gifts of stock.** Donate land for conservation purposes or resale to support LLAWF's mission. The land value, in full or part, is usually eligible for a charitable deduction. A gift of long-term appreciated stock is an easy way to make a lasting conservation contribution while avoiding capital gains tax. Contact us for more details and check with your financial advisor.



- **Make tax free donations from your IRA.** If you are 70 1/2, you can donate up to \$100,000 from an IRA directly to a charitable organization without paying income tax on the withdrawal or having it count towards adjusted gross income. It can be used to satisfy the yearly minimum distribution requirements.
- **Utilize Workplace Giving Programs.** Check with your company's human resources department to see if they will match your gift.
- **Leave a legacy.** Leave a legacy contribution by designating LLAWF in your will, IRA, or other estate plans. Please contact us for more information.
- **Volunteer your time and talents.** Volunteer participation on the Foundation's committees or assistance with a specific conservation project is welcomed.



Now is the Time to Protect



Picture the sun rising over a fog-shrouded island or the evening sunset exploding with beautiful hues of red and pink as the sun disappears below the horizon of pine trees across the lake. Near shore are abundant stands of bulrush, the home and birthing place for many species of fish and wildlife. Overhead an eagle majestically soars with its wings spread wide. And then comes the cry of the loon—a symbol of lake country and sound that more than any other typifies why we love our special lake places here in the Leech Lake watershed.

If the projected population growth of up to 50% by 2030 in Cass and surrounding counties becomes a reality, considerable stress will be placed on these lakes we call home and “up north.” As more shorelands are developed, the looming question is: what will the quality of our waters, forests, and fish and wildlife habitat be 20 years from now?

We don't want to stop growth; the sustainability of our communities depends on it. Our communities also depend on the high quality natural resources that beckon people to our region. The fishing, hunting, water sports, trails, beautiful scenery, wildlife watching, and cultural history all draw people to live, shop, vacation, and recreate here. The natural resources of the Leech Lake watershed are the economic backbone that sustains local communities and their economy. Our region's future depends on balance...balancing growth with protection of the natural resources that we enjoy and upon which our communities depend.

The time is now to protect our natural resources, especially our lakes.

Protecting and sustaining the health of our lakes will depend on: 1) **land conservation** to protect the most critical and still undeveloped or minimally developed shorelands that would have the greatest impact on water quality and habitat if they are developed; and 2) **good land management** on developed shorelands to minimize runoff to the lake and disturbance of habitat.

What is land conservation?

Preventing development or minimizing further development using various conservation tools is an important way private landowners can limit the impact their shoreland property has on the quality of the lake now and in future years.

Placing a conservation easement on your land is a viable tool to preserve the land from future development while still retaining ownership. The easement is a legally recorded agreement by which the landowner voluntarily restricts the development of the land into perpetuity. The development rights are given to a qualified organization or government entity to hold forever and to insure that the conditions of the easement are met. The landowner retains the use of the land, and can even set aside future building sites, but essentially the land stays undeveloped forever. The landowner and public benefit is the preservation of the natural resources and wildlife habitat and protection of water quality. Placing a conservation easement on the “land you love” is a living legacy for the enjoyment of those who come after you.

The activities that we do or don't do on the land will determine the future quality of our waters.

Other landowners may choose to donate or sell their land to the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation or another qualified organization or government agency, which then places the land in public ownership and manages it into perpetuity for water quality and habitat protection along with public enjoyment. Either way, with a conservation easement or land conveyance, these protected lands are continuing to work for us through the preservation of the natural resources.

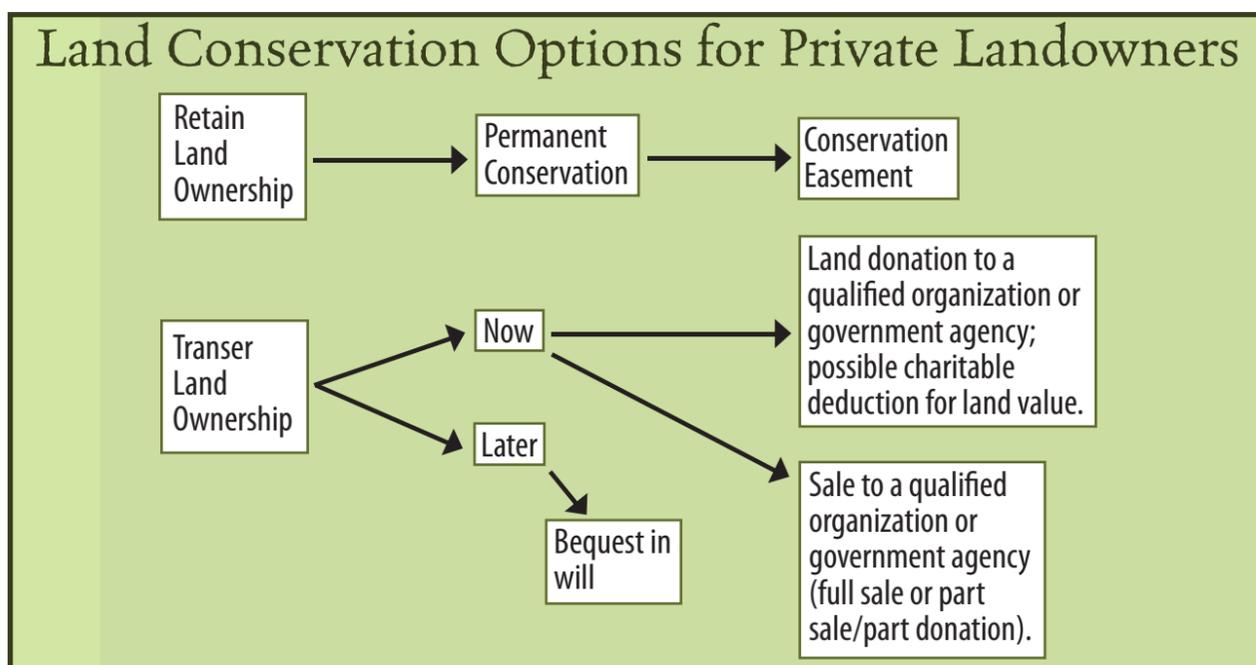
What is good land management?

For shoreland property owners, “good land management” involves practicing lake stewardship to protect water quality and habitat. Water running off the land can pick up nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen and carry them to the lake where they can also feed the growth of aquatic plants and algae and lead to impairment of water quality and recreational use. Runoff can be curbed with lake stewardship practices including proper lawn care and the use of zero-phosphorus fertilizer (it is the law), picking up pet waste, preventing shoreland erosion, and proper septic system maintenance. It can also be reduced by minimizing hard surfaces, like driveways and walkways, and limiting clearing and grading of native vegetation.

Runoff can be captured and cleansed so it doesn't reach the lake by using shoreland vegetative buffers and by redirecting rainfall to rain barrels and rain gardens to keep the rain where it falls rather than running off the land.

Aquatic habitats can be protected by minimizing the removal of submerged vegetation. Clear by hand only the amount of submerged vegetation needed to provide a small swimming area. Minimize the destruction of emergent plants such as bulrushes and water lilies. They help purify the lake by removing nutrients, provide shelter and spawning areas for fish and other wildlife, and protect the shore from eroding wave action—and they can only be removed with a permit from the DNR. The activities that we do or don't do on the land will determine the future quality of our waters.

The Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation is your partner to insure that population growth in this region is balanced with conservation of natural resources. Working together we can protect the irreplaceable natural resources that underpin the economy, recreational opportunities and quality of life that make the Leech Lake watershed such a great place to live and play.



Our Natural Resources

Funding Received to Protect Critical Shorelands

On July 1, 2010, a \$300,000 grant from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund was appropriated to Cass County Environmental Services Department to conserve sensitive and priority shorelands in Cass County. The three-year collaborative project with the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation and the Minnesota Land Trust will provide financial assistance to shoreland property owners who are willing to donate a perpetual conservation easement on their property to protect water quality and important fish and wildlife habitat. Property designated as "sensitive shoreland" by the Minnesota DNR through the Sensitive Shoreland Project (see page 6) will be the priority for the 12-15 conservation easements funded by the project.

Sensitive shorelands are parcels that have unique or critical fish and wildlife habitat and are highly vulnerable to the impacts of development. A conservation easement is a legal restriction on a property that permanently limits development to protect the natural resources. The landowner retains private ownership and use of the property while the development rights are held by a qualified entity. If the property is sold, or inherited, the easement passes on to the future owners to insure permanent protection of the natural resources.

The easements will be held by either Cass County or the Minnesota Land Trust. Participating



John Sumption, land conservation specialist with the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation, explains the conservation easement grant project to Cass County lake association representatives.

landowners who donate an easement to their property will receive approximately \$15,000 of services that are needed to close the easement. These costs may include a land appraisal, land survey, legal review, documentation of conservation values, and other associated costs. The donated land value is usually an allowable IRS charitable deduction.

"The project will conserve 3-5 miles of critical shoreland in Cass County to protect fish, game, and non-game wildlife habitat and water quality," said John Ringle, Cass County Environmental Services director. "This is very cost-effective protection at approximately \$7 per shoreland foot for permanent conservation." Interested landowners should contact the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation at 218-765-5773 or info@leechlake-watershed.org.

LLAWF Recommended for \$1 Million for Conservation Easement Project

To expand the conservation easement program described above, the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation (LLAWF) submitted a proposal to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for continued protection of sensitive and critical shorelands in Cass County plus Crow Wing and Aitkin counties. On September 15, the Council recommended \$1.098 million in funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund for the LLAWF project, "Protecting Sensitive Shorelands in North Central Minnesota."

The new project will provide approximately \$15,000 per easement to cover the closing costs and \$15,000 in permanent stewardship fees for 18-22 additional landowners who donate conservation easements on critical shorelands in one of the three counties. Pending approval by the 2011 legislature, the project would begin July 1, 2011 and end June 30, 2014. The outcome will be the permanent protection of 6 to 8 miles of critical shorelands and 600-800 acres of adjacent forest land that also provides important habitat for upland wildlife. The donated land value is estimated at 6 to 8 million dollars; at least a 6:1 conservation investment return on public dollars.

Targeted shoreland parcels have been identified by the counties. The majority of the Cass County parcels are among the 83 miles of sensitive shoreland in Cass County that was identified through the DNR pilot Sensitive Shoreland Study. The remaining Cass County parcels and the Crow Wing and Aitkin County parcels were identified by a large-lake assessment conducted in the three counties using science-based criteria.

The conservation easements will be held by the Minnesota Land Trust (MLT), either solely or co-held with one of the three counties. LLAWF will provide overall project management; secure land appraisals; and conduct outreach and coordination with landowners, lake associations, counties, and other project partners.

"We are pleased that the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council recognizes the excellent investment of public money to protect sensitive shorelands," said Paula West, LLAWF executive director. "Using conservation easements to protect critical shorelands is an essential strategy to maintain Minnesota fisheries and wildlife habitat; important waterfowl breeding and feeding areas; and the overall health of our state's aquatic resources."



Constitutionally Dedicated Environment Funds

The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund was created in 1988 by Minnesota voters as a constitutionally dedicated fund to protect and enhance Minnesota's environment and natural resources. Approximately seven cents of every dollar spent on playing the Minnesota lottery goes into the Trust Fund and is then invested. The Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) makes project funding recommendations, using a competition grant process, for up to 5.5% of the annual existing value in the Trust Fund. For more information: www.lccmr.leg.mn.

The Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) receives 33 percent of the new sales tax revenue from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy constitutional amendment approved by voters in November 2008. The OHF funds may be spent to "restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forest and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife." The Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) makes project funding recommendations from the OHF. The 2011 legislature will consider appropriation of \$80 million to 24 projects recommended by the LSOHC that would begin July 1, 2011. A portion of the OHF is made available for smaller grants (\$5,000-\$400,000) to local, regional, state, and national nonprofits and government entities through the Conservation Partners Legacy Grants Program administered by the DNR. For a list of FY2012 projects recommended by the LSOHC, see: www.lsohc.leg.mn/FY2012/index.html.



You can subscribe to *Conservation Notes*, the quarterly e-newsletter from the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation, to stay informed about important events, resources, and information related to the protection of the water, woods, and wildlife of the Leech Lake watershed. Don't wait for the printed newsletter to arrive.

To subscribe, send an email to info@leechlakewatershed.org with "subscribe" in the subject line. Email addresses are not shared and will be kept confidential for LLAWF use only.

About the Leech Lake Watershed

You might be surprised to learn that Minnesota has no incoming sources of water. Water in Minnesota eventually drains north to Hudson Bay, east to the Atlantic, or south to the Gulf of Mexico.

The Leech Lake Watershed is one of 15 subwatersheds located in the Upper Mississippi River Watershed, which is one of eight major watersheds in Minnesota. Eventually, no matter where you are located in the Leech Lake Watershed, the water drains to Leech Lake, which drains to the Mississippi River and eventually flows to the Gulf of Mexico. Within the Leech Lake Watershed there are 25 subwatersheds and each lake itself has its own lakeshed... the area of land that drains to that body of water.

A watershed is best envisioned as a funnel with a glass at the bottom representing a lake. Anything that falls into the funnel will find its way into the glass. Now think about what happens when it rains or snow melts. Some of the water evaporates back into the atmosphere, some infiltrates into the ground, and the rest runs off the land as stormwater. The land use in the watershed affects the types of sediment, nutrients, and other pollutants that can be picked up with stormwater and eventually washed into the lake.

The bottom line is...everyone lives in a watershed. We are all interconnected by water, and it's what we do on the land that impacts the quality of our waters, forests, and fish and wildlife habitat.

“A watershed is an area of land that drains to a common body of water.”

The Leech Lake Watershed is located primarily in Cass County and also includes the western third of Hubbard County and a small southern portion of Beltrami County. It is home to half of Minnesota's naturally reproducing Muskie lakes; abundant eagle, loon, and osprey nesting areas; and rare bird, plant, and animal habitats. Its natural resources provide millions of hours of outdoor recreation and sustain an economy based primarily based on tourism and timber harvesting. Everyone in the watershed must manage land responsibly to reduce impacts to the waters of the watershed and insure the enjoyment of its natural resources for generations to come.

About the Leech Lake Watershed

855,000 acres

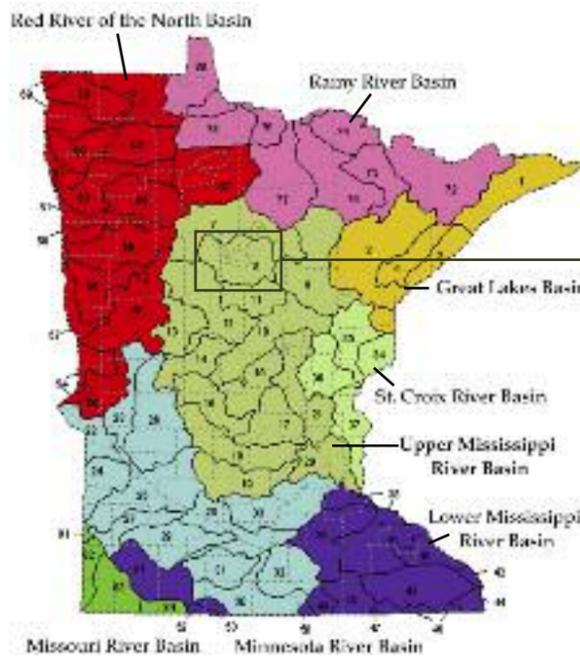
674 lakes (168,807 acres)

Leech Lake is 111,500 acres

120 miles of perennial streams

140,000 acres of wetlands

One-third of the watershed is in public ownership (county, state, federal)



Lantern Bay Protection Completed—Fundraising Nears Goal

The “Save Lantern Bay” project began five years ago when a large development of over 30 houses was proposed on the north side of Lantern Bay in Woman Lake. Full development along this sensitive shoreland could have caused serious consequences to the water quality and the habitat in the bay as a result of land disturbance and increased boating activity. After two acquisition projects in the bay were completed, in December 2008, the remaining 1,800 feet of sensitive shoreland was purchased from the developer to complete the goal of saving 5,000 feet of shoreland in Lantern Bay.

The DNR now owns and manages the shoreland as an Aquatic Management Area (AMA) to permanently protect the unique natural resources of this 120-acre shallow bay along with allowing public use and enjoyment.

In December 2008, the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation obtained a loan to prepay the private contribution obligation (approximately \$340,000) for the purchase and project completion. While the land is now protected, all that remains is completion of the fundraising goal of \$340,000 by December 2010 to pay off the loan.

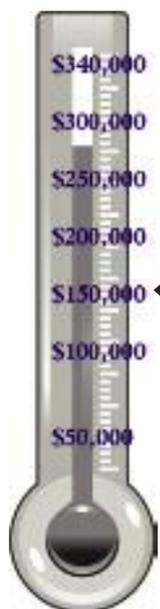
The Child, Girl, Woman Lake Property Owners Association and the Leech Lake Watershed Foundation (LLAWF) have given generously of their financial resources towards this project and have worked diligently over the past two years to raise the \$340,000 to repay the loan. In addition, the LLAWF was able to secure \$135,000 of dedicated sales tax revenue that benefited the repayment of the loan. Over 260 individuals and fami-

Save Lantern Bay Fundraising Nears Goal
\$42,000 left to raise-We need your help!

Why Preserve Lantern Bay?

- It's vital to the Woman Lake ecosystem
- Filters nutrients to keep water quality high.
- Nursery for fish spawning.
- Nesting area for loons, eagles, and other wildlife.
- Resting area for migratory waterfowl.
- Produces food essential for fish and wildlife.

5,000 feet of Lantern Bay shoreland ...almost the whole bay... is now owned and managed by the Minnesota DNR to permanently protect its unique natural resources.



Total 2008 land purchase price = \$900,000

- 1/3 from Minnesota DNR
- 1/3 private contributions to trigger a match of
- 1/3 from Reinvest in Minnesota Fund (conservation license plates)

lies have donated close to \$100,000 in private donations. Neighboring lake associations, Woodrow Township, sporting groups including Ducks Unlimited and Muskies Inc., the Longville Community Foundation, and area businesses and service clubs have contributed to the project. **We're almost there...only \$42,000 left to raise!**

We need your help! Send tax-deductible donations to LLAWF, mark Lantern Bay on checks. Or, donate securely online at www.GiveMN.org by searching for Lantern Bay Project.

Sensitive Lakeshore Identification Completed

For the past three years, the Minnesota DNR has been engaged in a cooperative project with Cass County Environmental Services and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Division of Resource Management to identify sensitive shoreland along 19 large lakes in Cass County. The lakes were identified by the county as a high priority for protection. Using objective, science-based criteria and intensive field studies, over 83 miles of sensitive shoreland on these lakes, excluding Leech Lake, has been identified. This information will be used by state and local resource managers to ensure that these sensitive habitats receive sufficient protection.

Definition

Sensitive Area

1. A geographical area, defined by natural and biological features, that provides unique or critical ecological habitat.
2. Sensitive areas are significant fish and wildlife habitat areas.



Sensitive shoreland is defined as a geographical area that has natural and biological features that provide unique or critical ecological habitat. These areas along the shore or in near-shore areas of the lake are crucial to the health and well-being of fish, wildlife, and native plants. Many fish and wildlife species, including many species of greatest conservation need, are highly dependent on naturally vegetated shorelines as habitat for feeding, resting, and mating and juvenile life stages. Within the 19 lakes surveyed, 45 bird species of greatest conservation need were documented,

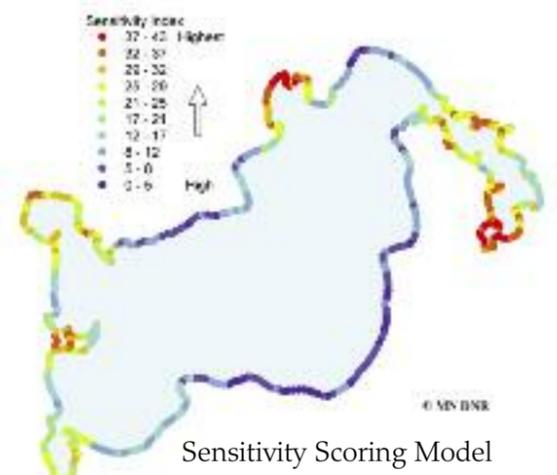
representing nearly one-half of the bird species in the state wildlife protection plan. In addition, four fish species of greatest conservation need were documented and over 15 species of rare or unique aquatic plants.

Development and land alteration in these sensitive shoreland areas may have significant negative impacts on these bird, plant, and fish species. Local zoning ordinances that regulate development activities can minimize impacts from new development. Plus, private landowners can conserve these critical shorelands with conservation easements that limit future development or through shoreland best management practices.

The lakes in the study contain extensive areas of undeveloped shoreland and are excellent locations to test the capabilities of this new shoreland protection tool. Fifteen different measurements of habitat quality and use by high priority animal

Lakes in Sensitive Shoreland Study	
(% of total shoreline that is sensitive)	
Ada	(48%)
Big Portage	(29%)
Birch	(32%)
Boy	(32%)
Deep Portage	(11%)
Lawrence	(14%)
Leech	(47%)
Little Boy	(40%)
Long	(23%)
Pine Mountain	(22%)
Pleasant	(37%)
Roosevelt	(30%)
Steamboat	(26%)
Sylvan	(39%)
Ten Mile	(46%)
Thunder	(44%)
Wabedo	(26%)
Washburn	(24%)
Woman	(39%)

species, including the results of extensive field surveys, were utilized to develop a scoring model to identify the most sensitive shoreland areas. A report that includes the data gathered and maps of sensitive shoreland areas is available for each lake in the Cass County study except Leech Lake, which is nearing completion. These reports along with the DNR's identification manual for the study can be viewed at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/sli/index.html>.



The Cass County pilot study was funded through the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), and by the State's Wildlife Grants Program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. With additional trust fund funding that began July 1, 2010, the DNR is now conducting a similar study in Itasca County. Using the data from both counties, the DNR will develop a rapid assessment model to identify sensitive shorelands on other lakes around the state.

Cass County Resource Protection Districts

In January 2010, Cass County adopted provisions within their shoreland ordinance that allows the re-classification of identified sensitive shorelands, either a whole bay or a portion of the shoreline of a lake, to special Resource Protection Districts (RPD). The purpose of the district is to protect sensitive land areas in which more intensive development would adversely affect water quality and productive habitat. More restrictive standards for new development in the districts would apply, including all standards applicable to a natural environment (NE) lake such as larger lot sizes and greater lake setbacks. The districts have been initially identified as 1,000 feet from sensitive shorelands on the lakes that were included in the DNR Sensitive Shoreland Identification Project.

"Resource Protection Districts can serve to better protect the ecology of environmentally sensitive shorelines, including habitats for plant and wildlife species of greatest conservation need. Although the shoreline itself is important, development and land alteration on the nearby shorelands can have significant negative effects on many species. Fragmented habitats often contain high numbers of invasive, non-native plants and animals that may out-compete native species," said John Ringle, director, Cass County Environmental Services.

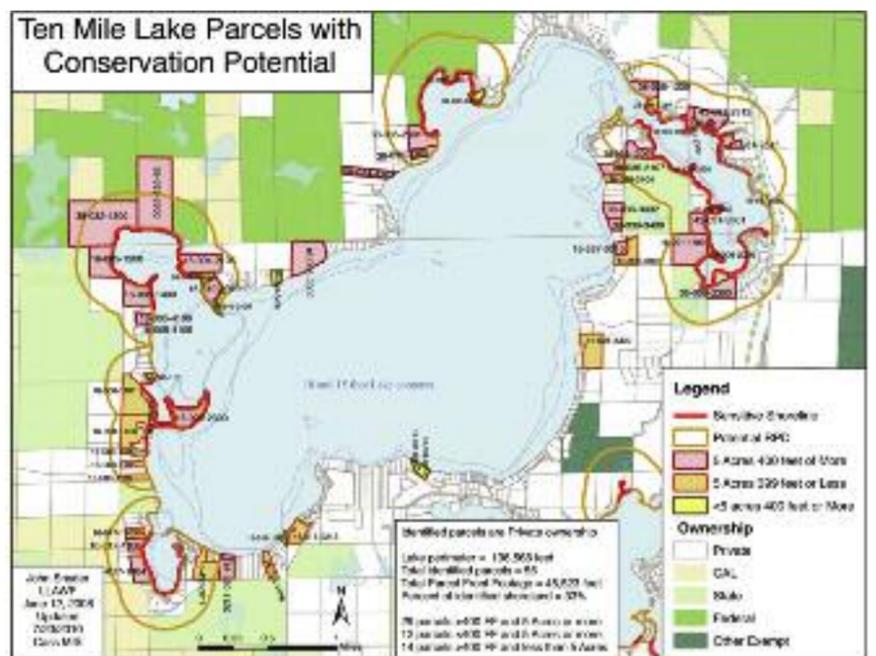
No resource protection districts have been established yet in Cass County, but Ringle provided answers to common questions about RPDs.

Q. Will I be able to comment on whether or not a RPD is created on my lake?

A. The process for creating a RPD is outlined in section 1202.2 of the Cass County Land Use ordinance. Basically, a citizen or group would request that their township board create a RPD for an area on a lake that has already been surveyed and classified by the Minnesota DNR as sensitive lakeshore. The town board would then decide to apply for the reclassification through a Resolution of Support to the Cass County Planning Commission (PAC/BOA) for a public hearing and decision. The PAC/BOA will affirm, modify or deny the application. If the PAC/BOA approves, a request is made to the Commissioner of the MNDNR for final approval.

Q. If I currently have a home or property in a potential RPD, how will I be affected?

A. You would only be affected if you decide to subdivide your property, in which case Cass County Land Use Ordinance standards for Natural Environment (NE) lakes would apply. If you do not wish to subdivide, life goes on as usual.



Cabin Succession Planning-- What's On Your Mind?

On August 27, 2010, over 240 people attended a LLAWF-sponsored workshop on cabin succession planning, "Your Cabin, Your Family, Your Legacy," at the Walker Community Center. Margaret Cronin, founding partner of the law firm Grandchamp, Guyette & Cronin in Wayzata, Minnesota, discussed basic legal and logistical considerations, including cabin trusts and limited liability companies, to help participants determine if cabin succession planning was right for them.

"After years of representing cabin owners during the transition of the family cabin to the next generation, I have observed several themes which seem to reappear frequently," said Cronin. "How do these themes relate to your situation?"

The Importance of Legacy

Cabin owners who are interested in succession planning have a strong sense of legacy. In an informal survey gathered at the August 27th workshop, 66% of respondents said that if they became incapacitated or passed away, they would want their children and grandchildren to continue maintaining and operating the cabin as they have done.

The Five Steps in Cabin Succession Planning

1. Understanding your vision in cabin succession goals.
2. Communicating with family members about the cabin.
3. Decisions and legal drafting.
4. Funding your cabin succession plan.
5. Plan implementation.

The Desire to Protect and Preserve

Senior generation cabin owners are often the pillars of the cabin experience. They monitor the budget, maintenance and repairs, stock the refrigerator and make sure there are clean towels in the linen closet. With this role comes significant planning responsibility. The LLAWF workshop survey revealed that 69% of the respondents were concerned about preserving an inheritance for children in case they need to go into a nursing home. In addition, 65% of the respondents reported a concern about estate and income taxes.

The Need for Flexibility

"Earlier in my cabin planning days, I would hear a majority of cabin owners tell me that they wished for the cabin to stay in the family forever and never be sold. I believe this is still the case for many cabin owners," Cronin remarked. "Today, however, there seems to be a stronger message of flexibility." Of the LLAWF survey respondents, 54% stated that they would prefer for the cabin to stay in the family, but it's not a requirement. In fact, 59% felt that at some point, the family cabin may be sold if it makes sense to do so. However, the cabin owners surveyed did express optimism about a successful transition to the next generation: over half thought their children could work together to manage and operate the cabin property.

The survey also noted a growing trend and awareness among cabin owners about the need for land conservation. Thirty-seven percent of the LLAWF survey respondents reported a concern about environmental preservation of the property on which the cabin is located. Paula West, executive director of the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation, provided workshop participants who

were concerned about the future of their land and the protection of its unique natural features, with several options to consider. These included: placing a

conservation easement on the property now to restrict future development; a bequest of land or an easement on the land to a conservation organization, such as LLAWF, or government entity in their estate; or a bequest of land that can be sold to further the conservation of other critical lands.

West encouraged interested participants to talk with an intended recipient organization or agency before including land donation in an estate plan to insure that mutual goals would be met and talking with their financial planner about potential estate tax benefits. "Your gift would not only leave a legacy, but also help conserve land elsewhere in this special region 'we call home' for the public to enjoy and the protection of fish and wildlife habitat." For more information on estate gifts or referral to regional estate planners, contact the LLAWF at 218-675-5773 or info@leechlakewatershed.org. The workshop was partially funded by a grant from the Lake County Power Operation Roundup Program.



Their Special Place Protected Forever

"It will feel very special to walk on the land the next time knowing that it is under a permanent conservation easement!" said Bernadine Joselyn about the 80 acres of family land, including 2,000 feet of shoreline on Tamarack Lake, a small lake in southern Cass County. The family, who has owned the land for over 45 years, recently completed an easement on the property through Cass County's easement incentive program.

"As my father, Gary Joselyn, prepared a forest stewardship management plan for the future use of the property, he started to think about how he could leave a personal legacy with the land by protecting it from future development," said Bernadine. "While the land borders county land on one side, there is forest parcelization occurring on the other sides. With people building homes, and second homes, and contiguous forest disappearing, our family realized we had an important part to play as stewards of the land."

Working with Cass County, the Joselyn family was able to take advantage of the financial incentives

available to put the conservation easement in place. Currently the property has a single cabin, a dock, and road. Allowances were included in the easement language for a future building site or change in the footprint of the existing cabin while prohibiting any additional development.

"This program is an innovative, cost-effective use of public resources...a unique opportunity for landowners to think about and do conservation. What would otherwise have been too daunting or costly for our family was able to become a reality...a dream come true. All the barriers to protection were removed," said Joselyn. "The three generations currently using the property are thrilled to know that the 80 acres will stay intact forever through the perpetual protection created by the easement. Working with Cass County was a happy marriage; we are satisfied and proud to be good stewards of the land."

Shortly after the easement was put in place, Gary Joselyn passed away of a sudden illness. "Though his death is a terrible loss, it makes the easement

he accomplished all the more important," said Bernadine speaking on behalf of their family. Born on the Nebraska prairie, Gary drew inspiration and personal renewal from the north woods of Minnesota and the Canadian Rockies throughout his life and especially after retiring as a professor at the University of Minnesota for 33 years. "Long a devoted birder and fisherman, my Dad also became a tree lover, carefully managing the forests and planting trees on his land...it was his gift to the future. The good news for Minnesota and especially for future Minnesotans is that there are a lot of people like my Dad taking care of their woods and the land they love."



Gary Joselyn