

# COUDERAY WATERS REGIONAL LAND TRUST

Protecting & Promoting the Natural Environment in Northwest Wisconsin

**“What avail are forty freedoms without a blank spot on the map?”  
- Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac (1949).**

For most of their forty years of marriage, Carol and Tom Heinrich have sought out those blank spots on the map. From the bluff country along the Kickapoo River of Wisconsin, to the Bitterroot Mountains of Montana, or the wilderness canoe country of Ontario’s Woodland Caribou, the couple has spent time listening, learning plants and animals, and exploring the intimate portage trails between waterways in their lives. When they bought some 40 acres of land east of Hayward, they both acquired a sense of place for the land that they wished others in the future could feel. So the idea of a conservation easement grew from their wanderings on the forest around their home. From the vernal ponds that hatch into a spring chorus of peepers, the old field that gives a dance floor to mating woodcock, maple stands that give sweet spring sap flows, to the hollows where blood root grows, and buck scrapes & rubs mark the coming of late autumn are all phenologies that the Heinrichs wanted passed to future generations.



Conservation easements are not new to the Heinrichs. In grad school at the University of Montana, Tom studied how residents worked together to help preserve the Big Blackfoot River. Downstream of Carol’s home town of Sauk City, people worked to preserve the natural features of the Wisconsin River, giving rise to sixty miles of the Wisconsin State Riverway. So the couple contacted Couderay Waters Regional Land Trust about the potential for a conservation easement on their land. Members of the trust cruised the land, looking at conservation values that should be preserved. They climbed hillsides looking at basswood, red maple, white pine, red oak stands, and relict white pines that dot the forest. Then CWRLT discussed with Tom and Carol what their goals for the land were, what an easement does for housing developments or land sales, and made sure the couple really understood that forever means forever, and a future landowner cannot compromise the protected conservation values to fit their new ideas for the land. The result: an acre building site around their current home with a place to garden, hang solar panels if one wishes; the privilege to still log their land, and the forest that hides the fawns in the summer, gives flight patterns to mallards landing in the ponds, fire wood for winter nights; and the old field that gives blueberry & blackberry harvests and those woodcock mating grounds. And those blank spots expand as the land touches the county forest and, if one wanders correctly, four miles of exploring for coyote scat, fisher tracks, Labrador tea, big buck sheds, and space.

“The cool thing,” Carol Heinrich stated “is that CWRLT’s board is made up of local people, people who know this land well, understand the watersheds, the forest landscape, and appreciate the geography left by the glaciers.” Tom added, “Before their work with the land trust, the members of the board were already immersed in the soil, the streams, and the forests of Sawyer County through prior experiences. So we were real comfortable with their ideas, suggestions, and knowledge of writing the easement.”

~ Carol & Tom Heinrich

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## From the President

*Carol Heinrich*

Over the past two years, the CWRLT board has worked hard together to move our land trust into the future. We were able to secure an organizational grant through Gathering Waters and Land Trust Alliance. This grant provided time with a consultant, Sara Wilson of Mayes/Wilson Associates. Through surveys, meetings and phone calls, CWRLT was able to define our strengths and weaknesses using the national Standards and Practices. As a result, we are working on updating our policies and procedures to match the national Standards and Practices. We have retained Sara Wilson as a consultant and are reaching out to other organizations in the area for assistance and support. The long range goal is to become a nationally accredited organization. This would qualify the organization to apply for grants which require accreditation, as well as streamline our practices.

With much gratitude and thanks, I would like to recognize the people who continue to work tirelessly for this organization:

**Gordy Christians** and **Dennis Clagett** spent countless hours doing the legwork and paperwork necessary to complete the Heinrich easement. Much patience and persistence went into reading, revising, and communicating with the lawyer to complete this process. Muchas gracias!

**Frank Pratt** and **Tom Heinrich** continually keep us on our toes with readings and happenings in the world of conservation. These well-read men offer many insights and much lively discussion in our meetings.

**Geary Searfoss** for his expertise in bookkeeping. His detailed accounting reports keep us in the know of how we stand financially.

**Roberto Palombi** has been a long standing member of the board and keeps us alive with his humor, and history of CWRLT's past.

**Sue Niemann** and **Joan Jacobowski**, our newbies, have jumped right in with the marketing committee and have taken on roles of getting our information out to the public.

**Louise Heim**, although no longer on the board, continues to work with our policies to help us update these important works.

**Kelly Nechuta**, our sole contracted person, uses precious snippets of time to pull together communications, easements materials, and other info. She also takes wonderful photos to keep our website and facebook page current. She keeps us moving forward with her expertise.

A special thank you to **Ben Niemann** for his years of service on the board. He continues to join our meetings and add his expertise in GIS and mapping.

As you can see it takes a dedicated team to keep this organization working. Thank you all for your time and devotion to our mission of: "Protecting and Promoting the Natural Environment in Northwest Wisconsin".

Carol Heinrich

CWRLT President



## Board of Directors

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Carol Heinrich - President  
Dennis Clagett - Vice President  
Geary Searfoss - Treasurer  
Tom Heinrich - Secretary  
Gordy Christians  
Frank Pratt  
Sue Niemann  
Roberto Palombi  
Joan Jacobowski

## Contact

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**Couderay Waters  
Regional Land Trust  
PO Box 13097  
Hayward, WI 54843**

**Website:**  
[couderaywaters.org](http://couderaywaters.org)

**Email:**  
[cwrlandtrust@gmail.com](mailto:cwrlandtrust@gmail.com)

**Facebook:**  
[www.facebook.com/cwrlt](http://www.facebook.com/cwrlt)

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**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Annual Meet & Greet!**  
**September 19th, 2018**  
**Deerfoot Lodge beginning**  
**at 5:30pm**

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

## *Be part of the northwoods legacy*

Protecting land through conservation easements can be a lengthy process and requires thoughtful consideration from all parties. Several easements are currently in various stages of the process. Do you have a unique property you would like to see protected? Perhaps you have trails on your property you would like to guide a tour on, or a special place you'd like to share. There are many ways to inspire others by creating the opportunity for outdoor experiences. [What is your story?](#) [Contact us to share!](#)

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*When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe. - John Muir*

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## *Thank You for your support!*

**There are many ways to support the work of your local land trust!**

- Return the enclosed card with your 2018 membership support if you haven't already, or if you would be able to make an additional gift this year to help us protect & promote natural land.
- Consider making a donation to further fund easement work, education, and outreach.
- Do you have a piece of property you'd like to donate?
- Give a **gift membership** to your friends, a great gift idea!
- Visit the website: [couderaywaters.org](http://couderaywaters.org) and click on **Donate!**
- Designate Couderay Waters Regional Land Trust as your charity of choice on **Amazon Smile**.
- Make a donation in honor or in memory of a loved one.
- Remember CWRLT in your will and estate planning.

*Thank you for your commitment to the natural environment of northwestern Wisconsin!*



PO Box 13097 Hayward, WI 54843

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Forwarding service requested

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## A message from the Coordinator

Hello! I invite you to visit the Couderay Waters website:

[couderaywaters.org](http://couderaywaters.org) where you can view event photos, slideshows, and information about the properties that we currently protect through conservation easements. The CWRLT board continues to work diligently on new easements and annual monitoring on existing easements. We look

forward to working with landowners whose love of the outdoors and connection to the land fuels their motivation to see natural environments protected. **Your experiences with natural places have likely shaped you as well**, and I invite you to find out more about your local land trust. Follow the website and Facebook page to stay on top of the latest news!

~ Kelly Nechuta