

Going “Up Country” to Glen Carrie

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grandfather's saber from the Civil War is in the living room. In the mid-1950's William Fyfe, a Hamilton relative, and a student of Frank Lloyd Wright designed an addition to the house that meshes beautifully with the original structure. The ice house, triple walled to insulate the ice, the barn with carriage room, the pump house, and the boat house, remain as they were. The basement of the outside cookhouse still holds the original huge steel water tank and pump which was used to store and pressurize the lake water for the kitchen.

Much of the parcel was originally open woodland. In the last 150 years it has gone from white oak savanna to a mature red oak-walnut-ash forest. The property at Glen Carrie that is most distant from the lake is still called the "upper pasture" by the family, even though it is a fully canopied, dense woodland. In addition to the upper pasture the property includes lake shore, upland savanna, and a spring-fed wetland. The creek, and the diagonal orientation of the property appears to provide a natural filter and barrier that protects the upland surface water run off for about a third of a mile of the Lake Elizabeth shoreline. Because vegetation of the hillside and the lake frontage is primarily short sedges; because it has not

been sprayed, seeded, farmed or developed it is a model of native vegetation, and a model, too, for how that structure creates a healthy lakeside environment. Not only is the water quality protected but there is a vibrant habitat for animal life, from the bottom of the food chain invertebrates on up to many species of birds and mammals.

In 1992 Dr. Wilhelm did a plant survey of the property. If the index is in the middle 30's or higher Wilhelm reported that "one can be relatively certain that there is sufficient native character to be of a rather profound environmental importance in terms of regional natural area perspective." The Glen Carrie index was 41, including red and white trillium, Jack in the Pulpits, native strawberries, shooting stars, blood root, red and white baneberry, blue cohosh, zig zag asters and joe pye, skunk cabbage, and a variety of fungi and puffballs.

Many of us in the clan want to preserve the property as it is, if we can, in the face of ever escalating tax costs and the care of old buildings. We not only have pleasure of the place in the present, but feel a responsibility to our forebears, to the future generations, and also to the community of Twin Lakes. The property has a significant stretch of undeveloped shoreline, and as the lake continues

to be developed, the ecological as well as aesthetic importance of that stretch cannot be underestimated. In her novel Lucy Gayheart, Willa Cather writes about a character, a famous singer, who, despite his professional success has no country or home or family, and few friends. "He had missed the deepest of all companionships, a relation with the earth itself, with countryside and a people. That relationship, he knew, cannot be gone after and found; it must be long and deliberate, unconscious. It must, indeed, be a way of living."

Twin Lakes is not the country anymore; in many stretches along the lake it has the feel of a densely populated suburb. Tucked into that suburbia it is the deepest of comforts to think of a little piece of country, the pebbled shoreline, the skunk cabbage growing by the spring, the wild strawberries that past generations have enjoyed and future generations will discover.

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Technology and KRLT - Please join in!

Like many conservation-minded groups, we have been a bit slow in embracing some of the benefits technology can provide.

While printed materials will not be abandoned, by using electronic communications, costs can be saved and more importantly, we will be able to provide

you with updated information.

In order to do this, we are asking that you send your email address to us at infokrlt@krlt.org if you would like to receive your newsletter and other updates electronically.

The Web – keep our URL listed in your favorites and visit us often at www.krlt.org. You will find news and more in depth information there. Plus, you can always post questions and concerns to us! Your voices are what make the organization strong and finding good ways to communicate is our goal.

The Coment by Anon

Oh, you Mistuh Comet,
Travelin' th'oo de sky.
You's got us all a-tremble
As you comes a-brushin' by.
We don' know what you's up to;
An' we don't know whah you's bin,
Nor whah you is a-gwineter.
You's jes' a-buttin' in!

Look here, Mistuh Comet,
As on yoh way you ride.
You ain't much in partic'lar,
An' mostly gassified.
You's like some folks I knows of
Dat raises heaps o' fuss
Wifout a-bein' nuffin
Except mysterious

Weddings, Birthdays, Anniversaries?

Consider a donation to
The Land Trust.

To honor those you care about!

Upcoming Events

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**April 29
May 5**

“Managing Weeds in your Backyard”: workshop at Seno Center.
Renak/Pollak Woods Walk and discussion. 5:30 PM to 7 PM. Dr. Joy Wolf of UW Parkside will present a short talk of the woods and then will lead a hike through it. E-mail: wolf@uwp.edu for more details.

**June 4 & 10
July 15**

Janes Native Garden: planting days - Janes School, Main St. Racine.
Mary Ellen Helgren Johnson memorial site clean up. Join us for a morning cleaning up and removing invasive species. 9AM to 1:30 AM Meet at the site. Also, learn more from Dr. Chris Evans on the remediation plans with the City of Racine.

**September
Other events**

River clean up on Des Plaines River. Details as to date and location will be mailed out and posted on the web site. There are several possible events coming up that will need volunteers to help. All will involve working on lands K/RLT holds private easements on to help the owners manage the land. Join us for a day of work enjoyment on the land. The web site will be posted and if we do not have your email address, we will mail out postcards.

Ways to Support KRLT

Grocery shopping?

Shop at Pick'n Save. Apply for an “Advantage Card” at the customer service desk inside the Pick'n Save store. List K/RLT's account number on your application: 413912. Use your advantage card at the check out every time you shop at Pick'n Save. A donation from each purchase will be added to K/RLT's account.

Searching the Web?

The next time you use the internet to search for a topic, go to the web page www.goodsearch.com. It is a search engine, powered by Yahoo! Just enter the name “Kenosha Racine Land Trust” in the space provided. Then type in the topic you are searching for. Each time you search, a small amount will be donated to KRLT.

Web shopping?

The next time you're shopping for a holiday gift, why not earn some extra money for K/RLT and support our mission to preserve open space and natural areas in Kenosha and Racine Counties? Visit krlt.onecause.com. Your purchases will earn real dollar rebates for K/RLT from hundreds of retailers. You can register or simply scroll down to "T" and shop anonymously.

Join the June Anti-Invasive Campaign

Governor Jim Doyle has proclaimed June 2006 Wisconsin's second annual “**Invasive Species Awareness Month.**” Invasive plants and animals (usually non-native species) threaten Wisconsin's waters and wild lands by out competing and destroying native plants and animals and the complex habitat systems. They also threaten the productivity and economic viability of Wisconsin's agricultural lands by creating overwhelming competition with crops. Millions of dollars, both public and private, are spent each year for the control of invasive plant and animal species in Wisconsin.

The cost of invasive species to the national economy has been estimated as high as \$137 billion per year and increasing, due primarily to losses in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, as well as to the cost of clearing invasive-clogged waterways and fighting invasive-fueled fires. Total costs in 1993 to Wisconsin utilities for controlling zebra mussels (particularly for those along the Lake Michigan shoreline and the Mississippi River) is estimated to be \$6.46 million.

Visit invasivespecies.wi.gov/ (our source for this article) to learn about workshops, lectures, and field trips happening throughout the state of Wisconsin. The Seno Center, near the Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth County borders, will be hosting an invasive species workshop on April 29, 2006. Experts will conduct both

classroom and hands-on activities teaching participants about the "dirty dozen" weeds of southeast Wisconsin, including wild parsnip, garlic mustard, purple loosestrife, and leafy spurge. Participants will learn how to identify and control these weeds. See the enclosed brochure for registration information.

Here 6 actions you can take to prevent the spread of invasive species:

- Volunteer with the Land Trust to remove invasive plants on work days.
- Start a group in your neighborhood to identify and remove invasives.
- Remove caked-on soil or seeds from your boots, pants, bicycle tires or car tires after spending time in parks or natural areas. You may unknowingly transport invasive plants to new areas.
- Remove invasive plants from your own yard or property and choose native plants for landscaping.
- Firewood can harbor invasive pests and diseases harmful to Wisconsin's trees, including gypsy moth, emerald ash borer, oak wilt, and beech bark disease. If you bring your own firewood while camping, burn it all, or buy firewood locally.
- Protect our waters by inspecting your boats and equipment and removing aquatic plants, animals, and mud. Drain bilges and dry your boat before reentering a different body of water.