



MINNESOTA LAND TRUST
LANDOWNER NEWS



PHOTO: SUE STEINWALL

2022 MONITORING SEASON UPDATE

As this reaches your hands, our volunteer monitor trainings are in full-swing and you can expect to be contacted by a staff or volunteer monitor in the coming months regarding your annual visit. For all in-person monitoring visits, landowners are encouraged to join the monitor. This is a great time for landowners to ask questions or let the Land

Trust know if any changes to the property are planned. Our staff and volunteer monitors enjoy visiting with you and walking the land. They are especially eager to meet with many of you again for the first time in a couple of years! However, if you are uncomfortable with an in-person meeting, please let your monitor know and they can arrange with you to monitor on their own. ➔

In addition, 2022 will be our third year using remote monitoring for a portion of our conservation easements, relying upon inspection of satellite or aerial imagery in lieu of an in-person visit. Last year we monitored 29% of our protected properties remotely and we anticipate a similar proportion of remote visits this year. As a reminder, here are a couple things to note about remote monitoring:

- Staff will be in touch with all landowners whose properties will be monitored remotely to address routine easement-related questions and concerns.
- Staff will continue to visit each property in person every 5 years, at a minimum.

Whether your property is visited by one of our monitors or monitored remotely this year, we look forward to connecting with you to hear how things are going!

LANDOWNER SURVEY UPCOMING

As we enter our third year of using remote monitoring, we want to hear from you regarding the fledgling remote monitoring program to get a better sense of what has been working well and what might be improved. To that end, we will be sending all landowners an electronic survey to collect your thoughts regarding the remote monitoring. All landowners will have the opportunity to participate regardless of whether your property has been monitored remotely. Your feedback will be instrumental in helping the Land Trust to strengthen the remote monitoring program. If you would like a physical survey to be mailed to you, please contact Andrew Moe, amoe@mland.org / (651) 917-6293. We look forward to hearing from you!

PHOTOS: NED PHILLIPS (LANDOWNERS); CINDY ROGERS (SUNSET); BRUCE MULVANEY (BARBARA); BARBARA MULVANEY (PELICANS)

THANK YOU, BARBARA MULVANEY

Barbara Ann Mulvaney, accomplished photographer, animal lover, and dedicated conservationist, passed away on October 15, 2021, leaving the Minnesota Land Trust a gift of 141 acres of land in Pope County that has been protected by an MLT easement since 2018.

“We are grateful for this generous planned gift,” says Kris Larson, Executive Director. “The property is a mix of forest and woods, grasslands and wetlands, all situated on Gilchrist Lake; it’s terrific land from an incredibly dedicated environmentalist.”

Historic photographs show that the property had been extensively farmed, like much of the lands surrounding it. Barbara and Bruce Mulvaney purchased the property in the 1970s and upon their retirements in the 1990s, made the Gilchrist Lake property their permanent home, leaving the metro far behind.

The Mulvaney’s worked to restore the property and to improve its habitat for wildlife. Audubon Minnesota helped the Mulvaney’s restore nearly 5 acres of pasture to prairie. Over the years, Barbara and Bruce installed countless nesting boxes for bluebirds, purple martins, and wood ducks. At last count, there were 75 bluebird

houses along the Mulvaney’s “Bluebird Trail.” They monitored the houses each spring and kept track of the nesting successes at each house. The Mulvaney’s installed loafing rafts – simple floating docks – each spring on Gilchrist Lake as havens for waterfowl, otters, and turtles.

They even built a nesting pole for osprey.

Bruce and Barbara’s restoration efforts on behalf of wildlife are only part of the story. In 2001, Barbara

“IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THIS SPECIAL PIECE OF ACREAGE WILL ALWAYS BE A HAVEN FOR WILDLIFE”.

—BARBARA A. MULVANEY, NOTES FROM A NORTH COUNTRY JOURNAL

published *Notes from a North Country Journal*, a book that mixes nature photography with “wisdom from the Northwoods,” according to a review. According to Mrs. Mulvaney’s obituary, “her wildlife articles and photographs appeared in numerous publications and she was a



A pair of white pelicans make use of the Mulvaney’s loafing raft on Gilchrist Lake for a bit of tidying up.



Barbara Mulvaney and friend.

regular photographic contributor to the Minnesota Weather Guide calendar.” Bruce and

Barbara were founding members of the Freshwater Society and the Minnesota Wildlife Heritage Foundation. They were also a member of the Bluebird Recovery Program in Minnesota.

In 2005, Barbara wrote her second book, *The Dogs of Pope County*. All proceeds from the sale of that book were donated to the Pope County Humane Society, which had opened its doors the year before. Barb also served as the director of the organization. She was a member of several other wildlife and animal humane societies as well as a longtime volunteer with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Bruce predeceased Barbara in 2015.

The Land Trust is grateful for Barbara’s generosity and will miss her unfailing love of nature and its beauty. Thank you, Barbara; we’re sure that your friends, your dogs, the bluebirds, and the critters remember your kindness.

If you are interested in learning more about planned giving with the Minnesota Land Trust, please contact Director of Development and Communications Jennifer Scholl; jscholl@mnland.org / 651-917-6289.

Sun setting over the Rogers’ property in Hubbard County.



2021 LANDOWNERS OF THE YEAR

Dan and Cindy Rogers

In what may be a first for the organization, the Landowner of the Year award was presented to a landowner from the same county in consecutive years! Fittingly, it was our 2020 Landowners of the Year, Carter and Florence Hedeem, who introduced 2021 honorees Dan and Cindy Rogers to the Land Trust. First serving as volunteers in the local chapter the late ‘90s, the Rogers placed a conservation easement over their Hubbard County property in 2004. With the completion of additional easements in 2011 and 2021, Dan and Cindy have now protected 600 acres of open field, forest, and wetlands.

Teachers by day, Dan and Cindy stay equally busy at home, tending to livestock and hayfields, engaging in sustainable forestry, and cross-country skiing on trails during the winter. Both are passionate about protecting open space and say they

“feel a sense of gratitude” that they were able to protect this beautiful land for future generations of humans and wildlife alike.

It was our honor to present Dan and Cindy with the Landowner of the Year award at our Treasured Places event at Camp Olson YMCA last fall. On behalf of everyone at the Land Trust, thank you Dan and Cindy and to all our landowners who have protected their land in perpetuity!



2021 Landowners of the Year Dan and Cindy Rogers at Camp Olson during last year’s Treasured Places event.

• STEWARDSHIP AND CONSERVATION BY THE NUMBERS •

670
SITES
MONITORED
IN 2021

71,495
TOTAL ACRES
PROTECTED

1,200+
VOLUNTEER
HOURS IN 2021

SITES MONITORED
36% BY VOLUNTEERS
56% BY STAFF
8% BY CONTRACTORS

2,176,502 TOTAL FEET
OF SHORELINE PROTECTED
75 VOLUNTEER
MONITORS



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



MLT Launches Ambassador Lands Program

Through its new Ambassador Lands program, the Minnesota Land Trust is playing matchmaker. We will help match owners of properties protected by MLT easements with nonprofit groups looking for great places to facilitate accessible, safe, and controlled outdoor experiences. In February 2022 we sent our landowners a survey to measure your level of interest and have received a very positive response. The most popular activities have been hosting events for birding, foraging, or a variety of “Citizen Science” ideas.

We are reviewing the survey responses and connecting with nonprofits who offer nature-based programming. MLT will soon be circling back to connect some of these groups with interested landowners. The goal is to have a few projects scheduled by early summer 2022. Initially, we will be working with a small group of landowners. Don't despair if you don't hear from us. We are keeping track of all interested parties and hope to use as many as possible as our capacity grows.

Ambassador Lands Projects are one-of-a-kind events, perhaps a day or weekend, and facilitated by the Minnesota



HANSI JOHNSON

Land Trust and their nonprofit partners at properties owned or managed by MLT landowners. Before any activity occurs on a protected property, partners will discuss and address concerns around potential liability and set expectations for events between the parties.

Contact Hansi Johnson (hjohnson@mnland.org or 218-336-1914) for more information. You can also check this link to get involved: <https://mnland.org/explore/engage/ambassador-lands/>

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

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