

## Join the Landmark Conservancy Board!

*Written by Judy Aldrian*

Want to renew your spirit in the Natural World? How about becoming a new Board member at Landmark Conservancy? You'll get a real appreciation for what an organization can accomplish while working with an extraordinary dedicated Staff and Board. Landmark Conservancy is in recruitment mode and interested in seating new Board members.

At first, you may have apprehension and even feel like a cub scout in need of a den mother! It takes a while to learn and understand the dynamics, but we have an orientation process in place and assistance from staff and mentors to help you get started. Along with your enthusiasm and experience, skills and talents that are helpful are in the fields of conservation/environment, financial/fundraising, community and organizational engagement, legal and non-profit experience - just to name a few.

We have 6 meetings per year and although our preference is to attend in person, you have the option to join via phone or computer when you cannot do so. We also ask Board members to serve on various Committees – Conservation, Governance, Advancement, Finance & Audit and Executive. These Committees are where the challenges and enjoyment begin and where you can share your expertise.

Landmark works in a 20-county area in northwest Wisconsin. Over the years, we've conserved 30,000 acres of beautiful tracts of land in perpetuity, some that front and/or include natural waterways. We are an accredited organization with the Land Trust Alliance and our practices, policies and procedures adhere to the guidelines of this national organization. In April of 2018, we officially hired our new Executive Director, Lindsey Ketchel replacing our retiring Executive Director. She eagerly stepped into her new role and has been working very hard to keep Landmark a premier conservancy.

I am retiring from the Board after seven years of service because of hitting that 80-year milestone and the need to cut back on activities. I truly enjoyed the work and challenges that arose during my tenure that began under West Wisconsin Land Trust in January of 2012. During that time, I served on three committees and two sub-committees including the Merger Task Force and Chairing the Search Committee for our new Executive Director. Although my husband and I now live in Eau Claire, we formerly owned 310 acres in the Southwest corner of Sawyer County in the beautiful kettle moraine wild lakes area near Birchwood. We began purchasing parcels in 1974 and conserved them with a land easement with West Wisconsin Land Trust.

The property allowed us to experience nature first hand. A bear built a den in a hillside across the lake from our home where we enjoyed watching the mom train four cubs to climb by pushing them up a tree with her nose, nurse them individually, and keep them from wandering too far from the den while they played in the snow. They left the den in April, but we saw them several times while hiking and yes, we retreated in the opposite direction. She had to slow down because one of the cubs was tiny and couldn't keep up with the rest. We've found a fawn hiding in the leaves next to a trail and a grouse sitting on her nest as we walked by. Nature fills our souls and it is so important to preserve these special places forever for all humanity.

Come join us at Landmark Conservancy– renew your spirit in the natural world!

**To learn more about serving on Landmark Conservancy's Board, call or email:**

**Lindsey Ketchel**

**(715) 235-8850**

**[lindsey@landmarkwi.org](mailto:lindsey@landmarkwi.org)**