



MINNESOTA LAND TRUST
MID-YEAR REVIEW | MAY, 2013

MINNESOTA'S TREASURES, PRESERVED FOREVER.



Introducing... Minnesota Land Trust Field Trips

We're launching a series of Field Trips this summer, and as a member of the Minnesota Land Trust you can get in on the fun. Here's just a sampling:

- > Paddle with Wilderness Inquiry founder, arctic adventurer and Minnesota Land Trust landowner **PAUL SCHURKE**. Explore Hegman Lake petroglyphs, enjoy a campfire lunch and puppy time at the Wintergreen dogsled lodge kennels.
- > Observe and photograph migratory birds on a guided St. Louis River Estuary boat trip (a Land Trust restoration project site) led by project manager **DARYL PETERSON**.
- > Explore our urban relationship with the Mississippi River by kayak with an exclusive tour led by University of Minnesota hydrologist **PAT NUNNALLY**.
- > Observe peregrine falcon expert **BOB ANDERSON**, Director of the Raptor Resource Project, as he bands falcon chicks on Land Trust protected property located on Mississippi River bluffs in southeastern Minnesota.

These Field Trips and more will be offered at our "Minnesota Made" fundraising event on May 23, 2013. Any unfilled spaces will be available starting May 24. Learn more at www.mnland.org or by calling 651-917-6289.



Minnesota Made



A benefit to preserve
the very best of
Minnesota's Treasured Places.

May 23, 2013

**Tickets available at
www.mnland.org
or by calling
651-647-9590.**

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING WITH SCOTT RUSSELL SANDERS



SCOTT RUSSELL SANDERS IS AN AUTHOR, ESSAYIST, EDUCATOR AND CONSERVATIONIST, CONCENTRATING ON AN EXAMINATION OF THE HUMAN PLACE IN NATURE AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CULTURE AND GEOGRAPHY.

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2013 - 7:00 PM

WOOD LAKE NATURE CENTER, RICHFIELD
6710 LAKESHORE DRIVE

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

CO-SPONSORED BY

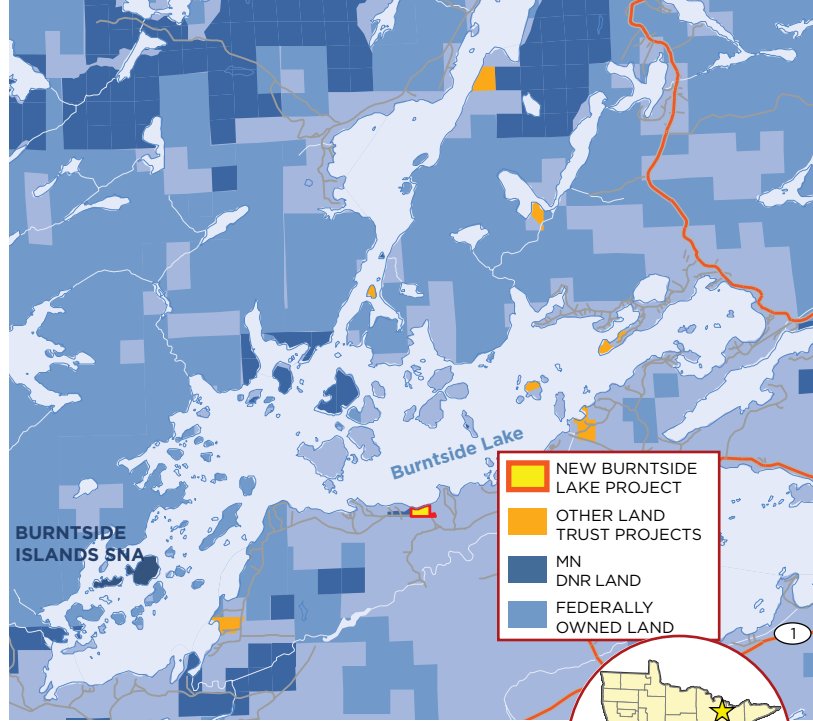




CURRENT OWNER
NANCY TUBBS
AT AGE 3



ORIGINAL CAMP VAN VAC
OWNERS AUNT KATE AND
UNCLE VAN



A LANDOWNER'S GENEROUS GIFT, MULTIPLIED BY OTHERS

Burntside Lake is one of those iconic places in what we might call our collective Minnesota memory. You may have experienced it as a kid at summer camp, as an adult on a Boundary Waters adventure, or even from your armchair as a reader of classic works by Sigurd Olson. Even if you've never been there, every Minnesotan has one of these places in their bones.

Camp Van Vac is that sort of place for generations of Minnesotans. Located just west of Listening Point on the south shore of Burntside Lake, Camp Van Vac is a historic resort built in the early 1900's by local Finnish craftsmen who used horses to pull the timber and rocks into position for the cabins that are there to this day.

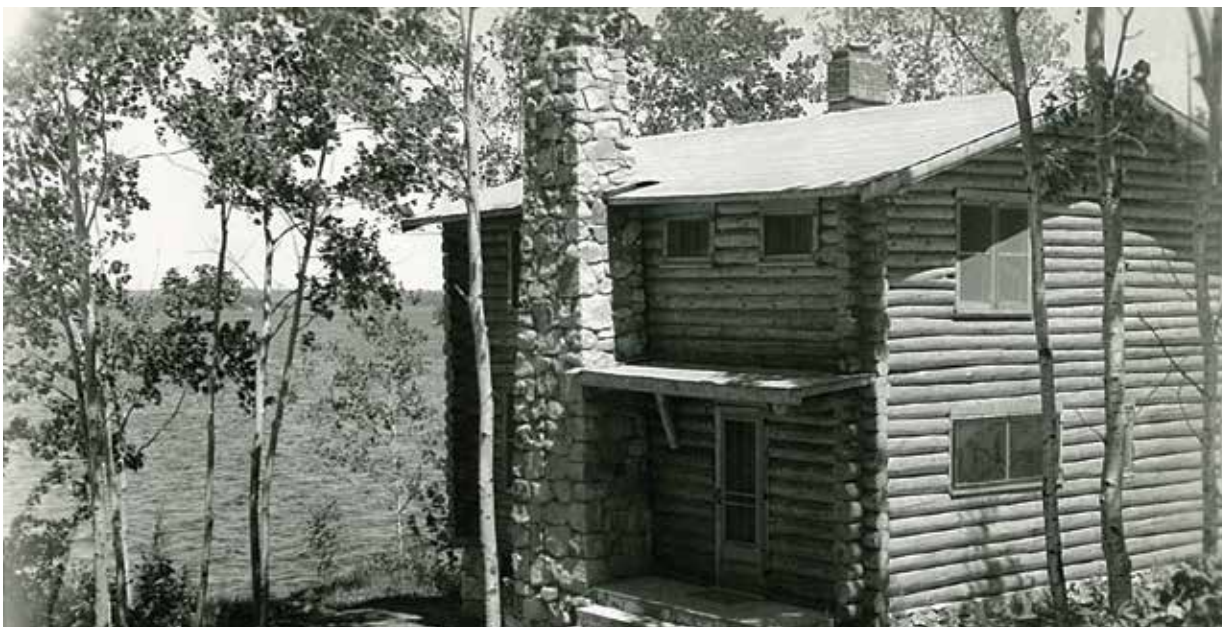
Nancy Tubbs, the great-niece of the original owner of Camp Van Vac, has a vision. She wants to maintain Camp Van Vac's rustic characteristics, with its relatively undisturbed shoreline and natural ambience. Late last year, Nancy completed a conservation easement on a thousand feet of Burntside Lake shoreline, with plans

to protect historic cabins and more shoreline in the future. The considerable value of the conservation easement was a gift by Nancy; transaction costs and funding for future easement stewardship has been paid for by the Outdoor Heritage Fund*.

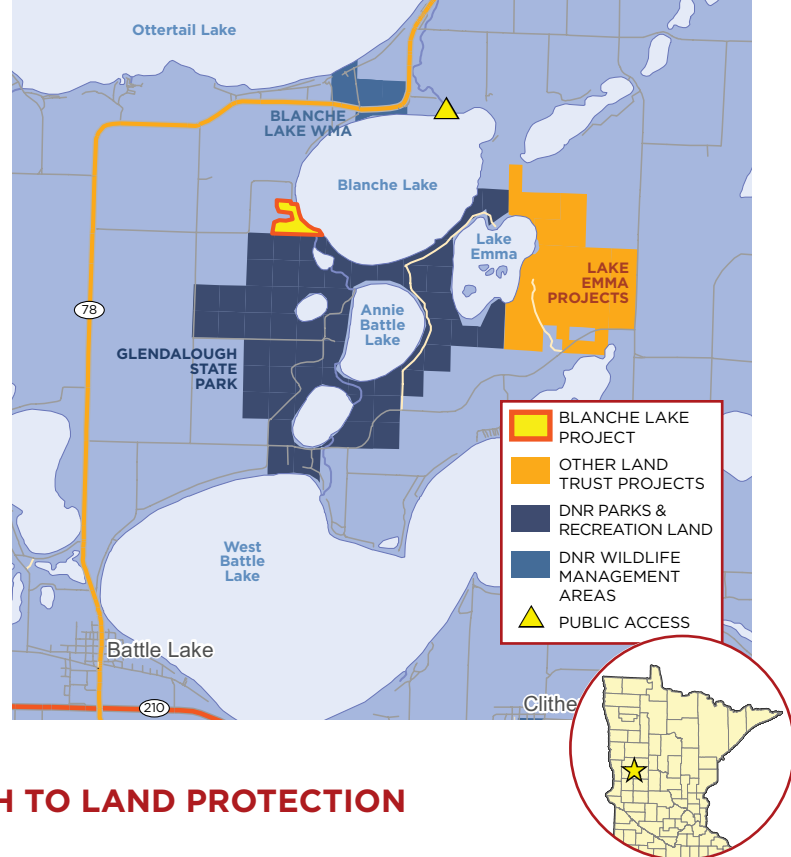
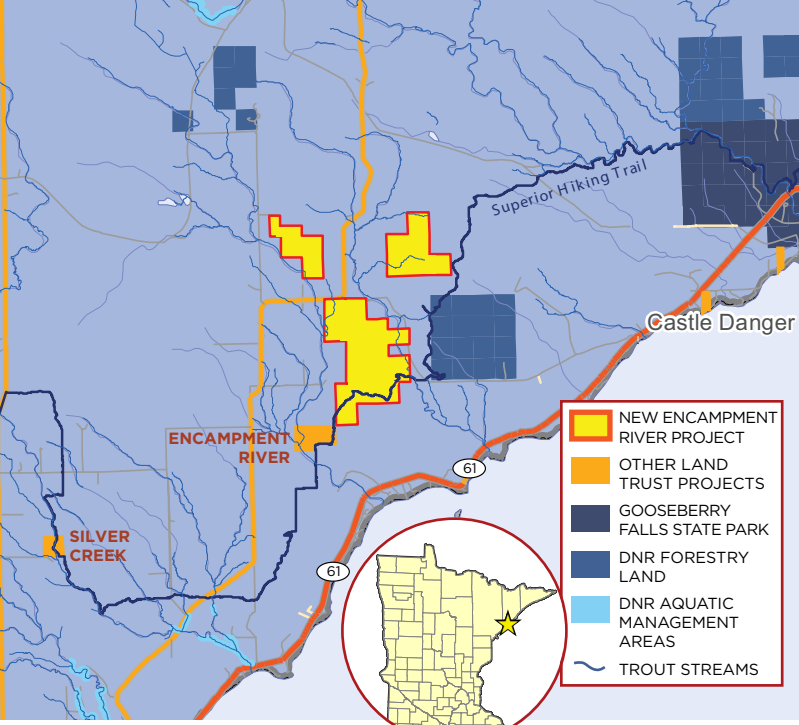
Nine other Burntside Lake landowners have also protected property on this BWCAW entry point lake, with more potential projects waiting in the wings. These generous landowners help ensure that natural shoreline and wildlife habitat is maintained — a nice bonus for human visitors who appreciate the undeveloped nature that these conservation easements provide.

Nancy's generosity is remarkable, yet not entirely unusual. In twenty years, Minnesota Land Trust landowners have donated at least \$80 million in development rights. This generosity allows us to stretch scarce resources and protect even more of Minnesota's treasured places.

* Funded in part by generous support from Minnesota's Outdoor Heritage Fund as recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC).



PHOTOS THIS PAGE
COURTESY OF
NANCY TUBBS



A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO LAND PROTECTION

Landscape designers and gardeners are familiar with the term “borrowed landscape” or “borrowed scenery” (the Japanese term is *shakkei*). The modern meaning suggests the technique of incorporating the surrounding landscape into the design or the aesthetic of the garden. We take that concept a bit more literally by prioritizing land that’s adjacent to public land including state parks and wildlife management areas, and other conservation easements.

In doing so, we create a larger complex of protected land that results in more functional wildlife habitat, a greater cumulative impact on water quality, and often a better experience for people who pass through or live nearby.

A STATE PARK-SIZED NORTH SHORE LEGACY*

Rolling hills, steep ridges with views of Lake Superior, and river gorges with wetlands. Old-growth pine and cedar forests bisected by the Superior Hiking Trail. Over 12,000 feet of shoreline along the

Encampment and Crow rivers, ponds and streams. If this sounds like one of our North Shore state parks, it’s because it’s big and scenic enough to be one of them.

A nearly one thousand acre tract of prime land northeast of Two Harbors was recently protected from development into perpetuity. In combination with adjacent protected property, it’s approximately the same size as Gooseberry Falls State Park, creating one of the most significant complexes of undeveloped natural lands along the North Shore.

Just to the south lies a 500 acre conservation easement held by The Nature Conservancy; a 90 acre conservation easement to the southwest is held by the Minnesota Land Trust, and State of Minnesota fee-owned lands are located to the east.

“Being able to create a complex of protected land – especially such a large amount of acreage in a rapidly developing area – is extremely helpful for habitat protection,” according to Fitz Fitzgerald, Northern

MOUTH OF THE ENCAMPMENT RIVER



STEWART CROSBY

Region Conservation Director. “It’s also great for the general public; one of the most beautiful stretches of the Superior Hiking Trail follows ridge lines on the property.”

GLENDALOUGH PARK SEEMS A WEE BIT BIGGER**

It wasn’t the luck of the Irish that makes Glendalough State Park seem larger than it is. Forty-eight acres of land located adjacent to the Otter Tail County park were protected from development forever by the Minnesota Land Trust.

This conservation easement extends the natural shoreline of Glendalough State Park’s northern boundary, on a lake that has already experienced considerable development pressure.

According to Park Manager Jeff Wiersma, “Developers like to put houses and condos next to state parks because they get this great view, but the park visitors don’t end up with such a good view.”

This new easement joins three that are already in place on the park’s eastern boundary along Lake Emma. All told, the four easements add well over two miles of undeveloped shoreline to the park’s nine miles of shoreline. The 900+ acres of undeveloped land protected by the area conservation easements effectively increase the wildlife habitat of the park by a third.

VALLEY CREEK: NEARLY 20 YEARS OF LAND PROTECTION* **

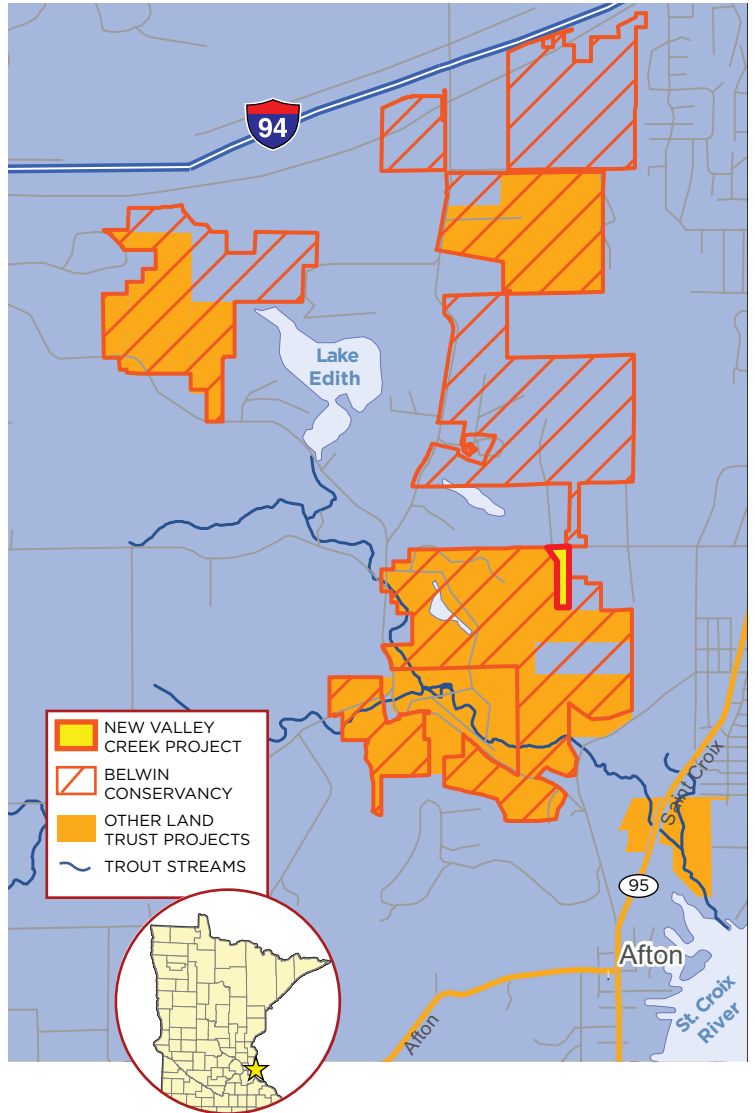
The Minnesota Land Trust got its start in Washington County over twenty years ago when a group of people, alarmed by increasing development pressure in that metro area county, took action.

The Land Trust’s second easement back in 1994 (we’ve now completed 444 and counting) was on Valley Creek, considered one of the finer trout streams in the state with naturally reproducing trout populations.

Over the years, we’ve protected ten properties totaling nearly a thousand acres, and over 20,000 feet of shoreline, creating an even larger area of conserved habitat and protected scenic views and ensuring a much brighter future for the fragile Valley Creek watershed.



DAN KAUFMANN



DAN KAUFMANN

*The project was made possible by private donations in combination with Critical Shoreline Grant funds from The Outdoor Heritage Fund as recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC).

** Funding for this project was provided in part by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). Currently 40% of net Minnesota State Lottery proceeds are dedicated to building the Trust Fund and ensuring future benefits for Minnesota’s environment and natural resources.



DULUTH HARBOR

PROJECT UPDATE - ST. LOUIS RIVER ESTUARY

The Minnesota Land Trust, under the leadership of Senior Project Manager Daryl Peterson, continues its efforts to coordinate and collaborate with over 15 different agencies that range from local to federal. Here is a brief round-up of just a few of the significant developments underway:

RADIO TOWER BAY was the site of our piling removal project last winter. After environmental review and permits are approved by the Minnesota DNR and Army Corps of Engineers later this spring, work is expected to commence in June on the excavation of sawmill wood waste. The process will involve chipping the material into manageable pieces, mixing in river water and piping it nearly a mile away into a holding pit. There, the water will pass through a filtration system and ultimately return to the river. Meanwhile, the wood waste will be allowed to naturally compost and upcycled into nutrient rich topsoil for use elsewhere in the restoration of St. Louis River habitats.

GRASSY POINT is a 180-acre area located at the mouth of Keene Creek, a naturally producing wild brook trout stream and well known to Duluth area birders and wildlife watchers. Like Radio Tower Bay, it was also the site of extensive sawmilling operations around the turn of the last century which left wood waste up to six feet deep in places. Minnesota Land Trust has just begun the construction planning and environmental permitting process using a grant from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. After restoration is completed, Grassy Point's sheltered bay will once again be hospitable to the wide variety of native birds and fish that once thrived there.

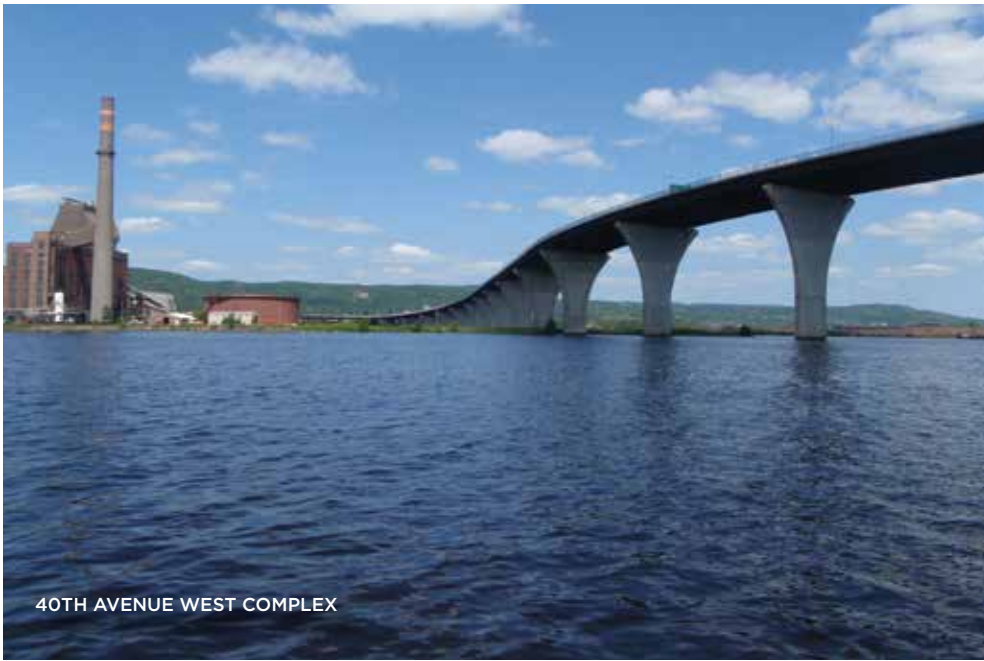
Near Grassy Point is another area of focus, referred to as the **40TH AVENUE WEST COMPLEX**. Another area that has seen a great deal of degradation due to industrial and urban development, the 40th Avenue site will experience a rebirth as a rich and nurtur-



WOOD WASTE FROM SAWMILL OPERATIONS



ST. LOUIS RIVER ESTUARY



40TH AVENUE WEST COMPLEX



RADIO TOWER BAY

ing home for native fish, birds and other creatures. An extensive, multi-year restoration program is planned that envisions clean-up of existing pollutants and debris, and the re-establishment of shallow and productive shorelines for spawning fish and migrating birds. Minnesota Land Trust is helping U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service complete a strategic plan for restoration over the next year.

For hundreds of years, Ojibwe people harvested wild rice in the lower **ST. LOUIS RIVER**, continuing into the early 1970s until pollution levels severely reduced rice beds. In addition to its cultural significance, wild rice beds provide stopover places for migrating birds and waterfowl, as well as more permanent habitat for fish and wildlife communities. The Minnesota Land Trust has begun working with the Fond du Lac tribe and DNR to restore wild rice beds throughout the estuary as part of the overall goal of restoring 500 acres of this wetland type.



NEW FACES AT THE LAND TRUST!



JOHN CURRY has many years of experience in the conservation arena, most recently as Assistant Director of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Central Partnership Office. He has managed effective conservation programs with Audubon Minnesota and as Director of the Minnesota Campaign for Conservation, led efforts to pass the successful Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment by Minnesota voters in 2008.



KRISTINA GEIGER joined us in February 2013 and will help manage the Land Trust's conservation easements by developing relationships with landowners, volunteers, and conservation partners. She coordinates our volunteer monitor program, shares information on land management and Land Trust policies with landowners, and manages the data used to maintain land quality long after the easement contracts are signed.





MINNESOTA LAND TRUST

Kris Larson,
Executive Director

John Curry,
Associate Director

Walter Abramson,
Director of Development &
Communications

John Brosnan,
Project Manager

Barbara Farrell,
Staff Paralegal

Francis "Fitz" Fitzgerald,
Regional Conservation Director

Kristina Geiger,
Stewardship Associate

Maggie Karschnia,
Land Protection Associate

Barbara LaMotte,
Marketing and Membership Manager

Susan McCallum,
Office Manager

Anne Murphy,
Conservation Stewardship Director

Daryl Peterson,
Senior Project Manager

Gena Setzer,
Staff Attorney

In addition to the staff members listed
above, the following individuals and
organizations provide high-quality
services that enhance our mission:

Jimelle Duncan,
Bookkeeping

Community GIS,
Mapping

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Peggy Adelman
Kurt Apfelbacher, Treasurer

Bob Bush

Tim Edman

Stan Ellison

David Fransen

Brad Fuller

Patti Gartland

Susan Heegaard

Patrick Hynes

Sharon Johnson

Jim Mayer, Vice-Chair

Hamlin Metzger

Karen Oberhauser

Julie Perrus

Melissa Peterson

William Rahr

Kelly Scanlan

John Shardlow, Chair

Sue Steinwall, Secretary

Dunn Yoshitani

Design by Barbara Pederson.

Cover photo by Layne Kennedy.

MINNESOTA LAND TRUST

www.mnland.org

651-647-9590 | Toll Free: 1-877-MLT-LAND

394 South Lake Avenue
Suite 404
Duluth, MN 55802

40 North 1st Avenue East
P.O. Box 298
Ely, MN 55731

2356 University Avenue West
Suite 240
St. Paul, MN 55114

EMAIL US AT: MNLAND@MNLAND.ORG

