



Tuesday, August 17, 2010

East Troy couple donates conservation easement

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Don and Beverly Hartranft recently donated a conservation easement on approximately 107 acres they own just west of the Village of East Troy to the Kettle Moraine Land Trust.

The donated land at W2537 State Road 20 includes 23 acres of wooded kettle moraine rolling land, a 1-acre groundwater pond with a floating mat and 82 acres of prime farmland.

"This property has been in Beverly Hartranft's family for three generations, and she and her husband Don, are committed to maintaining its beautiful open space for future generations to enjoy," said Jerry Petersen, president of the Kettle Moraine Land Trust. "The pond is truly a special nature place. It is surrounded by oaks and other hardwoods."

Conservation easements are permanent deed restrictions, which are accepted by land trusts from property owners. The donors receive tax donation credits based on a formal appraisal of the donation value according to IRS guidelines.

The land trust, upon accepting the donated easement, is then obligated to work with current and future landowners in perpetuity to assist in conservation planning and the enforcement of the terms of the easement, according to Petersen. Should the property be sold, the easement terms are passed on along with the deed to the new owners.

For more information on the Kettle Moraine Land Trust, visit kmlandtrust.org.

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