

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 2025

Contact: Beth Hoefer-Jezo, Associate Director
Tall Pines Conservancy
Phone: 262-369-0500
E-mail: beth@tallpinesconservancy.org

**Tall Pines Conservancy Announces Donation of 86-acres
Adjacent to Lapham Peak State Forest**

Delafield, WI - Tall Pines Conservancy (TPC) is pleased to announce the permanent protection of an 86-acre property located adjacent to and directly south of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Lapham Peak State Forest. The donation of this ecological resource was made possible through the generosity of the Bugbee family and an anonymous donor.

In 2023, an anonymous donor approached Tall Pines Conservancy with the vision of preserving an environmentally significant property that would offer recreational opportunities for the local community. After evaluating several options within Waukesha County, the Bugbee property was chosen because of the donor and their family's love for and fond memories of Lapham Peak. The land features an extensive oak-dominated woodland community and also supports a sedge meadow along its riparian corridor. A portion of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail passes through the southern portion of the land along Scuppernong Creek, thus connecting the property to an extensive hiking system within the state of Wisconsin.

The donor commented, "We are proud to donate this land that we love to Tall Pines Conservancy, to help preserve the natural beauty of our community for generations to come. This donation reflects our commitment to conserving natural landscapes and supporting Tall Pines mission, helping the community stay green and beautiful for everyone who comes after us."

Leigh and Jeanne (nee Marquardt) Bugbee were given the property by Mr. Bugbee's Aunt Ann (nee Solie) and Fred W. Smith, whose generosity and love for nature laid the foundation for a legacy of stewardship. The family has long embraced the outdoors, finding joy, peace, and connection in its quiet wonders. It was this belief in sharing these experiences with others who feel a similar affinity for nature that led Skip Bugbee, Nancy Hartner, and Benjamin Bugbee to sell the property for a fraction of its significant fair market value.

“As the children of Leigh and Jeanne, we are deeply honored and thrilled to see their cherished property contributing to the continuity of the Wisconsin Park System and the Ice Age Trail. This land has always held a special place in our family's heart—not only for its natural beauty but for the values it represents. This incorporation is more than a transfer of land—it is a continuation of a philosophy: that nature should be preserved, enjoyed, and made accessible to all. We’re proud to see our family’s values reflected in this meaningful step forward.”

About Tall Pines Conservancy

Founded in 1999, Tall Pines Conservancy is a nationally accredited, non-profit land trust working to preserve our rural heritage by protecting remaining farmland, water resources, and natural areas in the Lake Country region and beyond. Tall Pines has preserved approximately 3500 acres of land by conservation easements and fee acquisition.

Visit <https://tallpinesconservancy.org/> for more information or contact Becky Fedak at 262-369-0500 or via email at becky@tallpinesconservancy.org.

###