



Eschweiler Lavery Conservation Easements

Project Description: Noted American architect Alexander C. Eschweiler established this picturesque lake property as his summer home at the turn of the 20th century. Elisabeth Eschweiler Lavery is the fourth generation of the family to serve as stewards of the land. In 2004, the family donated an easement on six-acres of the family property that is an isthmus between North and Cornell lakes. In 2020, an additional easement was generously presented to Tall Pines on an adjacent three acres by Ms. Lavery. The entire eased property offers breathtaking views spanning from Holy Hill on the north to Delafield on the south as well as habitat diversity ranging from shallow marsh wetland to dry upland open oak woodland.

Why: This property is important to preserve because:

- 1) it is designated in the Chenequa Open Space Plan,
- 2) it features a healthy oak ecosystem and vibrant bird life;
- 3) it is located within environmental corridors and provide wildlife habitat;
- 4) it is located within the Oconomowoc River watershed;
- 5) it features a wetland with waterfowl habitat, ephemeral pond with amphibians, and provide groundwater recharge, and
- 6) it includes a glacial ridge providing a scenic vista.

Where: Village of Chenequa, Waukesha County; Cornell and North lakes

Size: Approximately 9 total acres

Owner: Elisabeth Eschweiler Lavery

Easement Holder: Tall Pines Conservancy by owner donation

Completion: 2004 and 2020

“Ms. Lavery has conducted extensive restoration of the property during the past 15 years. This includes the ongoing removal of buckthorn, controlled burning of the understory, grazing the property with goats, and planting native plants. The result has been the cultivation of a healthy oak ecosystem and vibrant bird life, with cerulean warblers, northern flickers, black-billed cuckoos and hooded warblers all present on the site. Her commitment to erosion control on the property also supports local water quality initiatives being undertaken by Tall Pines Conservancy, the Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program and Lake Country Clean Waters.”

—Susan Buchanan, TPC Executive Director

