



Natural Legacy News

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A non-profit land trust ❖

A New Chapter for TNL...in MN!

By Nicole LaBissoniere

Just in time for the fall color change, Trust for Natural Legacies is turning a new leaf. Or shall I say we are branching out! We are in the final stage of establishing a new TNL chapter in Minnesota and are doing so with spring-like enthusiasm.

This first state chapter opens up new opportunities for outreach, education, networking, and fundraising for our organization. The Minnesota Chapter is fortunate to be located within the progressive and diverse Twin Cities community, where there exists a well-established philanthropic spirit and a public that shows ever-increasing interest in sustainable endeavors. TNL-Minnesota will promote all aspects of TNL's mission while supporting our local members and community. Under guidance from the Board of Directors, the individuals listed below will guide the chapter's development.

Minnesota's precious natural features hardly require an introduction. Many postcards feature the pristine North Woods and the modest trickle that feeds the mighty Mississippi. The northern pines extend through the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and to the shores of Lake Superior while the rich prairie soil in the south lends itself well to rolling agricultural fields. In between, the land is dotted with the lakes that so much of our culture is rooted in. Three North American biomes converge within the state's borders, which sets Minnesota apart from most other states.

TNL-Minnesota Chapter Officers

President: Theresa Purcell
Vice-President: Nicole LaBissoniere
Secretary: Derek Farder
Treasurer: Theresa Peterson



For Info, contact Nicole@naturallegacies.org



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The tall-grass prairie meets the deciduous forest ecosystem, which reaches up to the northern coniferous forest. Where the prairie meets the woods, an oak savannah landscape once thrived. Minnesota also has extensive riparian and wetland habitats, but all of these landscapes face degradation. Many organizations have emerged to limit the negative environmental and anthropological implications. Fortunately for TNL-Minnesota, this presents potential relationships with respectable organizations, like the Department of Natural Resources, the University of Minnesota, and the Three Rivers Park District, whom we can connect with to further our goals regarding land conservation, education, scientific research, and natural burial.



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At present, TNL-Minnesota is focusing on the immediate needs that will allow our chapter to function independently. This includes personnel training, printing of outreach materials, and presentation development. We have opened a dialogue with state government officials, University of Minnesota faculty, and faith-based organizations. Future outreach will include presentations/booths at the Green Expo, the Minnesota State Fair, and additional faith-based centers. The possibilities are as dynamic as the changing season and we invite anyone interested in land conservation through natural burial to join us for an informal meeting in the Twin Cities (see events listing on p. 2).

➡ For TNL-Minnesota meeting information contact Nicole at Nicole@naturallegacies.org.

Photos: MN DNR.
Oak Savannah; Upland Coniferous Forest

Parties, Training, and Planning...

Lots to Choose From!

Minnesota Chapter Member Training, Minneapolis, MN

TWO TIMES TO CHOOSE FROM:

- ♦ Sat. Oct. 4, 1:00 PM, Central Public Library, Rm. N-402, Minneapolis MN
- ♦ Sun. Oct. 5, 1:30 PM, Rondo Community Outreach Library, Multipurpose Rm., St. Paul, MN

TNL's Minnesota Chapter will be hosting two local training sessions to introduce people to TNL and learn about volunteer opportunities. This is a great way to dive in, meet people, and see how you can help get the effort rolling in Minnesota.

Pumpkin Carving Party –Minneapolis, MN

Saturday, Nov. 18, Noon, Como Park, St. Paul, MN

TNL's new Minnesota chapter will be hosting their kick-off event—a Pumpkin Carving Party to welcome and get to know Minnesota members! It's "BYOP"—Bring Your Own Pumpkin—but cider and carving knives will be provided. Feel free to bring snacks or a picnic lunch. Join us for fun and camaraderie!



Corn Maze! Day of the Dead Celebration – Madison, WI

Sunday, Nov. 2, 1 PM to 4 PM (& beyond), Trienen Farm, W 12420 Hwy 60, Lodi, WI, 53555



Fifteen Acres of Fun!

Nothing better celebrates the bounty of fall than Trienen Farm's legendary corn maze—a stupendous 15 acres, this year designed as a gigantic dragonfly. We'll meet at the bonfire/picnic area by the pond at 1:00 for caramel apples, snacks and cider, before beginning the maze at 2:00. Afterwards, for those who'd like to continue to socialize, we'll meet up again at 4:00 to head to a local pub. Adults \$10, kids 6-11 \$8, under 5 free (cost includes admission and a small donation to cover TNL costs). If you know you will be coming, RSVP to Kristi Minahan at 608-244-9094 so we know to look for you. Otherwise, just show up! For directions and more information on Trienen Farm, visit: <http://www.treinenfarm.com/> (Trienen's ph.# is 608-592-3481).

Greening the End of Life Panel Discussions, Madison, WI (details TBA)

Three panel discussions are in the works for this fall (details to be announced). If you've been curious about the full range of green options, including green funerals, home funerals, and green burial, these panel discussions will be for you. Each session will have three speakers:

- ♦ Amanda Conway, Cress Funeral Homes – green burial options through funeral homes
- ♦ Mary Kateada, Simple Wisdom Sanctuary – caring for loved ones through home funerals
- ♦ Math Heinzl, Trust for Natural Legacies – sustainability through conservation cemeteries

For more information, contact Math Heinzl at math@hedgecroft.net. Watch for details at <http://www.naturallegacies.org/>, and please spread the word to those who may be interested!

2008 Strategic Planning Retreat – All members welcome

Sat., Nov. 8, 9AM to 3 PM, Madison Central Public Library, 201 W. Mifflin St., Rm. 201, Madison, WI

Members are invited to join us for our 2008 Strategic Planning Retreat to share their visions for the future of TNL. Members will work with the Board of Directors to determine where we would like to see TNL go in the future, and how we should get there.

Member Profile ❖

Theresa Purcell is a co-founder of The Natural Burial Project and the new president of TNL's first state chapter, TNL Minnesota. She earned degrees in Anthropology and Social Criminology from the University of Minnesota and in 2007 completed a thesis entitled "Green Burial and Western Attitudes Towards Death: The Quest for Immortality." Her personal interests and business concentrations include land and wildlife preservation, sustainable living, end of life issues, and increased social awareness for natural burial options. In her free time, Theresa runs the successful Twin Cities movie group Trash Film Debauchery which she founded in 2003. Aside from independent cinema she also loves tea, natural history, community arts, and enjoying the outdoors. Theresa is excited about bringing TNL to Minnesota and helping to establish the Midwest's first conservation cemetery.



Cedar Brook Burial Ground: Maine's First Green Cemetery

By Nicole LaBissoniere

In early March of this year, when Maine measures its snowfall in feet rather than inches, I flew to Boston then trekked up to Limington, Maine (30 miles west of Portland) to meet retired forester and green cemetery owner Peter McHugh. I had contacted Mr. McHugh to gather practical information about starting an eco-friendly cemetery. The first practical information he gave me was to ignore my desire to see a moose in person and not seek out the temperamental creature. Fair enough. We quickly got to business discussing his business operations.

To my surprise, Cedar Brook is a one-man operation! Peter's business approach is as straightforward as the whole natural burial philosophy. He provides the land and those who desire a simple, natural interment can purchase a plot and coordinate the details themselves. His 150-acre property is managed as a tree farm, but looks like any other naturally forested property I have ever seen. Within his property limits is Cedar Brook Burial Ground, a 2.1-acre green cemetery. And inside of the cemetery limits is the quaint, stone-walled Joshua Small Cemetery, which dates back to the early 1800's. The existing cemetery enhances the sacred ambiance of the larger landscape. A notable difference from traditional cemeteries is that Cedar Brook Burial Ground showcases its namesake rather than polluting it.

For more information about Cedar Brook Burial Ground, visit <http://greencemetery.blogspot.com/>.



Photo: Cedar Brook Burial Ground; <http://greencemetery.blogspot.com/>



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A significant portion of our funds are used in printing and mailing the newsletter you are enjoying right now. To help us conserve costs, consider signing up to receive your newsletter via email. Just drop us a line at joy@naturallegacies.org to make the switch!

Dirt (song lyrics by Phish)

I'd like to live beneath the dirt
A tiny space to move and breathe
Is all that I would ever need

I want to live beneath the dirt
Where I'd be free from push and shove
Like all those swarming up above
Beneath your heels I'll spend my time

I'll wiggle in the earth and dew
And sometimes I will think of you
And if you ever think of me
Kneel down and kiss the earth
And show me what this thought is worth



Get a little 'Corny' on the Day of the Dead

Don't miss this year's Day of the Dead special event—a visit to Trienen Farm's 15 acre corn maze in Lodi, Wisconsin.

If you've never been to an event like this, you'll be 'a-mazed'!

Sunday, Nov. 2, 1:00
See page 2 for details!



Webmaster Needed

We will be saying goodbye to our webmaster at the end of October, and are looking for someone to replace him. Experience in Dreamweaver templates and HTML is desired. If you are interested, please email Mark Dahlby at mark@naturallegacies.org.

TNL extends a big thank you to **Charlie Bolt** for his time and dedication over the last year!