

LAND CONSERVATION highlights



Photo by Kevin Thusius



Moraine-Outwash Preserve Protected in Langlade County

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After several years of working with very patient landowners, we were able to acquire the Moraine-Outwash Preserve, a 39-acre property from the Louise Selenske Estate in Langlade County. The property was acquired as an “anchor” for future Ice Age Trail development and will provide an excellent interpretive opportunity along the heavily-travelled State Highway 64.

The property has significant geological importance along the Trail, as University of Wisconsin-Madison Geology Professor Emeritus and former Alliance board member David Mickelson explains:

“This is a spectacular piece of land from the glacial geology perspective. It provides a great view across the Antigo Flats, from the Almond Moraine across to the Parrish Moraine. The Antigo area is one of the best places in the state to see the moraine-outwash relationships and this particular property would offer the BEST views of this geology anywhere north of Waushara County along the Ice Age Trail.”

The Antigo Flats are a large, flat, relatively open area of land in the shadow of the surrounding moraines. The fertile Antigo Silt Loam (Wisconsin’s state soil) over

well-drained outwash sediments provides a great place to grow potatoes and other crops. The flats can even be seen from space – see the adjacent aerial photograph.

The vegetation atop and along the northwest face of the Preserve is mostly wooded with middle-aged hardwood trees. There is a distinctive open area with sandy soils also on the moraine. The west side of the property reaches down into the outwash before giving way to the vast expanses of farm land.

In the future, the Alliance plans to develop a small parking area, loop trail and interpretive signage on the property. A sign will also be erected commemorating the Peter J. and Louise A. Selenske Homestead.

The Alliance was able to protect the Moraine-Outwash Preserve because of funding from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund, the Land & Water Conservation Fund and, notably, the Alliance’s Langlade County Chapter. Thanks to our partners at the Department of Natural Resources, National Park Service and local chapter for their partnership in protecting this important property.