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### CONSERVANCY PROTECTS 40-ACRE BROMLEY WOODS

Great horned owls, Cerulean warblers, wood ducks and red-headed woodpeckers are just some of the bird species that hikers may see on the two miles of hiking trails at Bromley Woods, the Geneva Lake Conservancy's newest nature preserve.

The GLC purchased 32 acres of the Bromley family's oak forest and kettle pond on October 8. The purchase was made possible by grants from the DNR's Knowles Nelson Stewardship Fund and Pheasants Forever as well as individual donations.

In addition, the Bromley family donated an adjacent eight-acre oak savanna to the Conservancy that contains 200- to 300-year-old oak trees.

"Preservation of this property for future generations is particularly significant because oak forests and savannas have become one of the rarest landscapes on the planet," said Kevin Brunner, Geneva Lake Conservancy Chairman. "We are grateful to the Bromley family and all of our donors who worked for more than two years to ensure that this important wildlife habitat was protected forever.

The Bromley family has owned the property since 1844 when William and Martha Bromley arrived from England after spending 7 years in New York. Four years later, Wisconsin became a state. Over the years, the family has hosted many friends and school groups on the property and the oak savanna has been the site of the La Grange Township 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic and softball game since the 1950s.

The property is near the old Potawatomi trail between Milwaukee and Madison and the family has found numerous arrowheads and other Native American artifacts on the site.

The current generation, including Becky, Tom, Jean, Maggie, Mark, and Janet Bromley all grew up skating and canoeing on the kettle pond, playing games in the woods and hiking the numerous trails. When it became apparent that most of their children would not be living in the area, they approached the Conservancy.

"It was our father's wish that when it came time to sell the property that it remain a nature preserve," said Janet Olson, the youngest of the Bromley siblings. She now lives in Whitewater. Mark Bromley and his wife, Pat, live in the original family home on Greening Road, which has been renovated and added onto over the years.

"The Bromley family has been good caretakers of this land for 175 years and we are honored that they have entrusted the Conservancy to carry on this tradition," said Karen Yancey, GLC Executive Director.

The property is located on Greening Road in the town of LaGrange and borders Kettle Moraine State Park on its north and east side. It will be opened in early 2020 for hiking, cross country skiing, bird watching, hunting and trapping.

The Conservancy is working with the Bromley family to protect an additional 40 acres of oak forest adjacent to the new preserve.