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GENEVA LAKE CONSERVANCY RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

FONTANA, Wisconsin (August 13, 2018) ---One thing that united us as a nation is land: Americans strongly support saving the open spaces they love. Since 1977, the Geneva Lake Conservancy has been doing that for the people of Walworth County. Now, the Geneva Lake Conservancy has announced that it has achieved national recognition—joining a network of more than 400 accredited land trusts across the nation that have demonstrated their commitment to professional excellence and to maintaining the public’s trust in their work.

“Accreditation demonstrates Geneva Lake Conservancy’s commitment to permanent land conservation in the Lake Geneva area and all of Walworth County,” said Charles Colman, Chair of the Conservancy’s Accreditation Committee. “We are a stronger organization for having gone through the rigorous accreditation program. Our strength means that special places – such as Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy, Town of Linn Park, Hildebrand Woods and our many private conservation easements throughout Walworth County – will be protected forever, making our area an even greater place for ourselves and our children.”

Geneva Lake Conservancy provided extensive documentation and was subject to a comprehensive third-party evaluation prior to achieving this distinction. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission awarded accreditation, signifying that Geneva Lake Conservancy’s lands will be protected forever.

Accredited land trusts steward almost 20 million acres of land nationwide – the size of Denali, Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Glacier, Everglades and Yosemite National Parks combined.

The Geneva Lake Conservancy has protected more than 2,000 acres of land in Walworth County and recently opened two new public preserves: Helen Rohner Children’s Fishing Park in Williams Bay and the Hansen Preserve, north of Elkhorn, both of which preserve open space with high conservation value and offer a variety of recreational activities.

“It is exciting to recognize Geneva Lake Conservancy with this national mark of distinction,” said Tammara Van Ryn, Executive Director of the Commission. “Donors and partners can trust the more

than 400 accredited land trusts across the country that are united behind strong standards and have demonstrated sound finances, ethical conduct, responsible governance and lasting stewardship.”

About the Geneva Lake Conservancy

The Geneva Lake Conservancy’s mission is to preserve and advocate for Walworth County waterways, natural areas and working lands. Since 1977, it has helped shape responsible growth and development in Walworth County and protected more than 2,000 acres of natural areas, open spaces and farmlands. With more than 800 members, it offers educational events, and holds conservation easements on 28 properties. It also has four public nature preserves that provide a variety of recreational activities.

About the Land Trust Accreditation Commission

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission inspires excellence, promotes public trust and ensures permanence in the conservation of open lands by recognizing organizations that meet rigorous quality standards and strive for continuous improvement. The Commission, established in 2006 as an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, is governed by a volunteer board of diverse land conservation and nonprofit management experts. For more, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org.

About the Land Trust Alliance

Founded in 1982, the Land Trust Alliance is a national land conservation organization that works to save the places people need and love by strengthening land conservation across America. The Alliance represents 1,000 member land trusts supported by more than 200,000 volunteers and 4.6 million members nationwide. The Alliance is based in Washington, D.C., and operates several regional offices.

The Alliance’s leadership serves the entire land trust community—our work in the nation’s capital represents the policy priorities of land conservationists from every state; our education programs improve and empower land trusts from Maine to Alaska; and our comprehensive vision for the future of land conservation includes new partners, new programs and new priorities. Connect with us online at www.landtrustalliance.org.

PHOTO CAPTION: The Geneva Lake Conservancy team that led the effort to obtain National Accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission included (left to right) Janet Happ, Development Director, Karen Yancey, Executive Director and Charles Colman, Board Accreditation Committee Chair.