Artist with lens remembers Emma Toft

*Beauty in the grandeur of the forest*
Touched by the death of Emma Toft, photographer Mike Brisson sent the Advocate some pictures of her and her beloved point. His letter is worth printing:

“Door County is a love to many of us for many reasons. Since the early 60’s, whenever the opportunity arises I hop in my car and head there whether it is for a few hours or a couple of days.

“In May of 1972 I had the honor of meeting Miss Emma at her home in Baileys Harbor. The reason for this meeting was for some photos of her and her land which was being transferred to the state.

“I found out very quickly she did not like to be photographed but this did not interfere with her warmth of personality. I also learned in a short period of time that she respected this land her home and it always would be.

“Emma, somewhat of a quiet person, understood the vital relationship between man and his land. She was in fact extremely sensitive to how we were interacting with it, particularly Door County.

“Ever since that first encounter with her she had planted in me a seed of respect for our environment. The photographs I took in May of ’72 became very private for me, not that they were unusual or even interesting in fact I did not want to share them at all, this refuge of nature she and her family had left.

“Today I wonder how Emma would feel about what is taking place in Door County with more tourism and more construction. I wonder how Emma would feel about ‘Condo Campsites.’

“It seems there will never be enough said about this remarkable woman for she had the sensitivity and responsibility most of us will never develop.”

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