

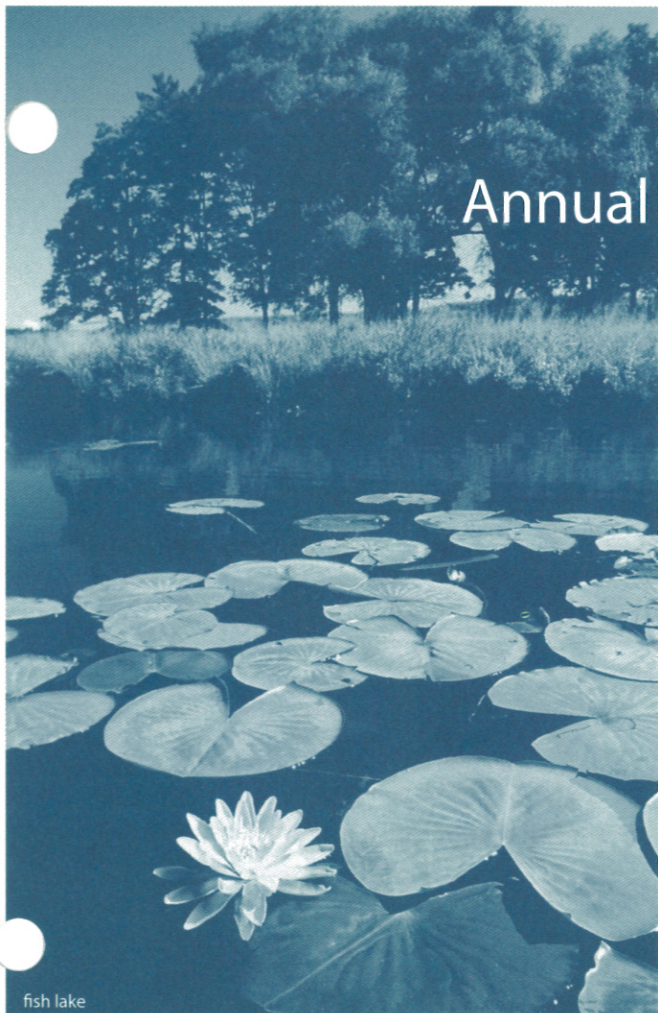


Natural Heritage
LAND TRUST

Conservation where you live

Annual Report

2000-2001



fish lake

Formerly known as the

Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation

Natural Heritage Land Trust

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Natural Heritage Land Trust
303 S. Paterson St., Suite 6
Madison, WI 53703

phone 608.258.9797 fax 608.258.8184
e-mail admin@nhlt.org
web site www.nhlt.org

our mission

The Natural Heritage Land Trust is dedicated to the conservation of natural areas and open space in Dane and the surrounding counties.

our philosophy

We at the Natural Heritage Land Trust believe that it is our responsibility to leave the legacy of our landscape to future generations.

We do this by:

- Protecting land through acquisition and easements.
- Educating residents and empowering them to have a voice in land protection.
- Working with landowners to protect significant elements of our landscape.
- Developing conservation partnerships in our community.



dear friends,

For nearly twenty years, the Natural Heritage Land Trust has proven to be an asset in our community, providing our region with a legacy of protected natural areas and open space. To date, with the continued support of concerned community members, we have protected over 2,375 acres of woods, wetland, lakeshore, stream bank, springs and farmland for posterity.

We are pleased to report that NHLT has had a banner year. Specifically, during the 2000-2001 season we completed our Fish Lake project, which we began in 1999. The \$3.1 million dollar project protected over 3,000 feet of shoreline, soon to be a new Dane County park. We also placed 1,024 acres of land in conservation easements through our partnership with the Town of Dunn, facilitated the creation of a 25-acre mixed natural area and recreational park, and protected 18 acres of streambank along a vital cold water stream.

This was also a season for engaging people in local land conservation. We at the Natural Heritage Land Trust could not respond to Aldo Leopold's great call of reconnecting people with nature without the tremendous support and efforts of members, volunteers, conservationists, government agencies, landowners, concerned citizens, businesses and donors. During this past fiscal year, through our programs, volunteer naturalists led two field trips and two work parties on our easement properties, giving adults and children the opportunity to experience the nature around them. In September, we honored local conservation heroes at our eighth annual stewardship awards, doing our part to recognize the amazing work of local community members who dedicate their talents, services and resources to the land.

In addition to our projects and programs, we have achieved significant improvements in our organizational structure. We have been, in effect, sharpening the tools we use to meet the challenges and goals of our mission – protecting our natural heritage. In 2000-2001 we installed a Geographic Information System (GIS) and developed both a comprehensive conservation plan and an organizational strategic plan.

At a time of tremendous growth in our region, the Natural Heritage Land Trust is working to strike a balance with development, ensuring that there will be healthy waterways, beautiful natural areas, citizen involvement in environmental decision making, and large tracts of family farmland for generations to come. We invite you to celebrate not only last year's accomplishments with us but to join us as we plan for the future. Please join us in the excitement of making conservation where you live a reality.

Sincerely,



Danielle Wood
Executive Director



land protection projects & programs

2000-2001

projects:

Our 2000-2001 fiscal year culminated in the completion of three conservation projects for a total of 1,002 acres permanently protected through a mix of conservation options. Our conservation tools included: land acquisition, collaborating with the Town of Down to co-hold easements through their purchase of development rights program, and easement donations. Highlights of the projects spanned from our \$3.1 million dollar deal protecting over 3,000 feet of shoreline on Fish Lake, soon to be a new county park, to working with a coalition of interests resulting in a natural area linked with a recreational park and residential development. We also protected buffering land on the banks of Garfoot Creek, a tributary to Black Earth Creek, at a time when fish kills were occurring in the creek.

programs:

Our eighth annual stewardship awards were a great success, with over 180 people in attendance, including 13 business sponsors and 22 individual sponsors who donated over \$6,400 to honor local conservation heroes. Our two field trips and two work parties, led by volunteer naturalists on our easement properties, allowed members and non-members to connect with and learn about the nature around them. During work parties, volunteers assisted landowners in the environmental stewardship and management of their property, working to promote native growth and foster healthy habitat.

organizational accomplishments:

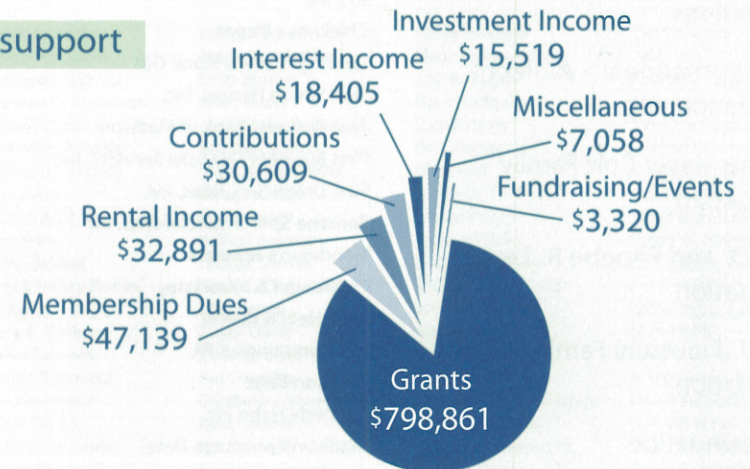
In the 2000-2001 fiscal year, the Natural Heritage Land Trust completed three major organizational accomplishments, which directly improve our efficiency and effectiveness as a land trust. The Natural Heritage Land Trust has undertaken conservation planning to address land use changes and growth in our region. The plan will guide our conservation efforts over the next three to five years. The Trust also installed a Geographic Information System (GIS), a powerful conservation tool that enables us to better assess our conservation needs, plan our projects and coordinate our efforts with our partners. Lastly, since June 2001, The Trust has been involved in strategic planning for our entire organization. We reassessed our mission and goals and developed concrete numbers for acreage and funding objectives, as well as specific work plans for achieving these goals.

* For an in-depth look at our organization's goals, please request a copy of our executive summary or strategic plan document.

financial statement eighteen months ended June 30, 2001

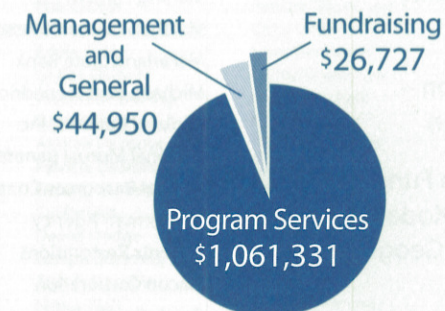
your dollars hard at work...

support



TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE \$953,802

expenses



TOTAL EXPENSES \$1,133,008*

*Does not include \$125,000 contribution to the Natural Heritage Land Trust's endowment fund administered by the Madison Community Foundation (MCF).

*Includes \$818,244 property transaction costs associated with program services.

Audited statement available upon request, and on-line at www.nhlt.org

financial supporters

foundations

DEC International – Albrecht Foundation, Inc.

Eugene Mayer Bolz Family Foundation

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Madison Community Foundation

Nelson Foundation – Fleetguard/Nelson

The Conservation Fund, administered by Kodak and the National Geographic Society

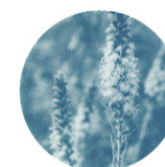
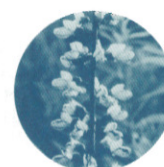
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current members

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We regret if we missed anyone

thank you

Our success in natural and scenic land protection is due to those who generously support us with their time, talents and resources. We are *your* local land trust.

Our Membership and Funders...true supporters of conservation where you live who help us accomplish our goals and recognize the importance of putting their financial support into what they believe in.

Our partners...among the many: Gathering Waters, the Madison Audubon Society, Trout Unlimited, local watershed associations, the Town of Dunn, the Department of Natural Resources and the many departments of Dane County.

Our boards of directors...outstanding community leaders who donate a large portion of their time and expertise to the organization in order to see the Trust and its mission thrive.

A special thank you to our Executive Director, Danielle Wood, a tireless leader and visionary who continually works to strengthen the organization and make a difference in our community.

Our wonderful staff...Laurie and Nancy for their devotion to conservation. They help make our Land Trust's mission a reality.

Special thanks to our legal counsel Bill O' Connor for his longtime commitment to our organization.

Our volunteers...we couldn't do our jobs without them. Although we can't name them all, we'd like to make sure we especially thank: Margaret Bolton, Sarah Gehlhoof, Jan Anderson Hunt, Laurie Lewis, Kristen Tomasheski and Monica Zabkow.

And to board member and volunteer Jeff Strobel for his in-kind donations of many of our publication materials.



“John Hutchinson completed his term as president with us this year - seeing us through a staff transition, our largest project to date (Fish Lake) and much more. Throughout his presidency, John has helped us reach new heights as an organization and we are grateful.”

Danielle Wood, Executive Director
Natural Heritage Land Trust

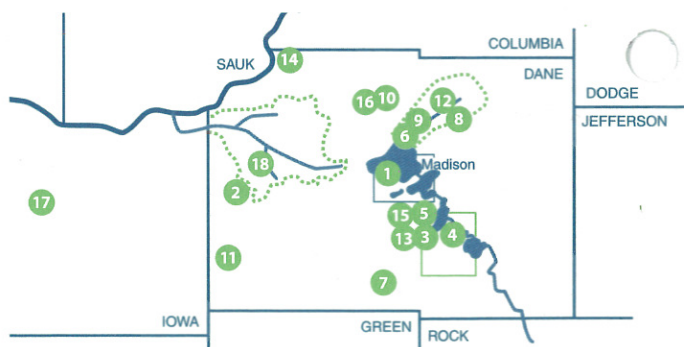


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Annual Report 2000-2001

the places we've protected:



 Black Earth Creek and
Token Creek Watershed
Priority Areas

 Town of Dunn Partnership

- 1 Lower Eagle Heights Woods, Madison 1984
- 2 Evenson's Woods, Town of Vermont 1985
- 3 Watt's Conservation Easement, Lake Waubesa 1986
- 4 McClain Conservation Easement,
Lower Mud Lake 1987
- 5 Schmidt's Orchard, Nine Springs E-Way 1988
- 6 Addition to Cherokee Marsh, 1991
- 7 Storybrook Farm Easement, Village of Brooklyn 1993
- 8 Thomas Streambank Easement, Token Creek 1993
- 9 Whiteside Conservation Easement,
Town of Westport 1993
- 10 Wilke Preserve, Waunakee 1994
- 11 Blue Mounds Conservation Easement 1995
- 12 Smith Streambank Easement, Token Creek 1996
- 13 Sinaiko-Nine Springs E-Way Project,
Town of Dunn 1997
- 14 Fish Lake Project, Town of Roxbury 2001
- 15 Purchase of Development Rights Projects with the
Town of Dunn 2000 & 2001
- 16 Bolz Conservancy Park, Waunakee 2001
- 17 Trewartha Easement (in progress), Iowa County 2001
- 18 Garfoot Creek Acquisition,
Black Earth Creek Watershed 2001