

Westport Drumlin Protected

Great things are happening at Westport Drumlin, a beautiful state natural area between Cherokee Marsh and Waunakee. What started out as an isolated 14-acre site owned by the DNR since the 1970s has expanded to a 217-acre protected landscape in the last two years.

In June, the Land Trust purchased 30 acres on the north side of the drumlin from the Borke family. It has been a special place for Judith Borke since childhood. She has fond memories of clearing brush along the fence between their property and the drumlin prairie and then relaxing by the resulting burn pile with her family. "The s'mores never tasted better," she reports.

In September, the Land Trust purchased 100 acres southwest of the drumlin from the Koltes family. The Koltes brothers have seen offers to buy the farm for quarry operations in the past, but Jim Koltes says he never wanted to see the land developed or turned into gravel. "I'm glad it's getting preserved forever," said Koltes. "I think I'll visit as long as I'm able."

The latest acquisitions, when added to our 73-acre purchase on the east side of the drumlin in 2009, form the basis for a phenomenal grassland restoration project with four remnant prairies and the drumlin at its core. This project demonstrates that there are still great natural areas that need protection just outside of Madison.

Soon, the Land Trust and our partners will construct a small parking area and trailhead to improve access to the site and begin work on a restoration plan.

Funding for the acquisition of the Borke and Koltes properties came from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, The Conservation Fund, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Dane County Conservation Fund, Wisconsin Land Fund, and members of the Natural Heritage Land Trust. ■

WISCONSIN'S
2010
LAND TRUST
OF THE YEAR

Your Land Trust is #1.
See inside for details.



Natural Heritage
LAND TRUST

Conservation where you live

303 S. Paterson Street, #6
Madison, WI 53703
608 258-9797
www.nhlt.org

Mission

The Natural Heritage Land Trust protects natural areas, wildlife habitat, working farms, healthy lakes and streams, and recreational land to provide a high quality of life in the Dane County, Wisconsin region.

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The five projects we completed in our fiscal year which ended June 30, 2010 show the power of vision and tenacity. The land we purchased in May at the Brooklyn Wildlife Area in southern Dane County will allow to state to restore a large marsh, a goal held by the DNR for 60 years. At Cherokee Marsh on the north side of Madison, our acquisition of 23 acres in April is our fifth

project at the Marsh since 1991; it is the latest step by the Land Trust, City of Madison, Dane County, and DNR to protect the county's largest wetland. These projects illustrate our approach to protecting cherished local lands: working over the long haul with landowners, conservation partners, and communities to protect the landscapes we all love.

Thanks to your support, the Natural Heritage Land Trust has been working hard for 27 years to protect great places in and around Dane County, now totaling 6,606 acres of permanently protected land.

Jim Welsh, Executive Director



2010 Land Trust of the Year

The Natural Heritage Land Trust is #1 and you are to thank for it. We have been selected as Wisconsin's 2010 Land Trust of the Year by Gathering Waters Conservancy, the statewide association for land trusts. This award is being bestowed in recognition of our long record of success.

We owe it to you – our members – who have generously supported us throughout our 27 years of local land conservation work.

According to Mike Strigel, Executive Director of Gathering Waters Conservancy, the Land Trust received more nominations than any other in the history of the award. The nominations highlight the strength of our partnerships with landowners, community organizations and government agencies.

Frank & Mariana Weinhold, Land Trust members and landowners of the permanently protected Louis' Bluff, praised the Land Trust's "professionalism, efficiency, and vision." Jeanne Behrend, President of Patrick Marsh Conservancy, highlighted our community involvement and noted that, "the Natural Heritage Land Trust is truly an inspirational organization." Brian Standing, Senior Planner with Dane County Planning & Development, said, "it is hard to imagine an organization more worthy of recognition."

We are humbled by the many nominations we received and want to thank everyone who took the time to submit them. We strive to protect meaningful landscapes where people connect with nature and become inspired to support more conservation. Given the outpouring of support for this award, it appears this strategy is working.

Twenty-seven years of conservation success doesn't come easily. The support of our members is what allows us to do this important work. Since our inaugural project at Wally Bauman Woods in 1983, we have stayed true to our mission of permanently protecting cherished local lands. We thank all the past and present members, partners, and landowners for making us #1. ■

ON THE COVER: Land Trust Executive Director Jim Welsh and landowner Jim Koltes at Westport Drumlin

Conservation Project Roundup

July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

JEFFREY STROBEL



Westport Drumlin

In June, we acquired thirty acres at the Westport Drumlin Unit of the Empire Prairies State Natural Area from the Borke family. This acquisition creates a northern buffer for the exquisite prairie drumlin owned by the DNR that hosts the state's largest population of the federally-threatened prairie bush clover. The new acquisition will eventually be restored to prairie and opened to the public for all to enjoy. (See the cover story for good news about all the recent acquisitions at Westport Drumlin.)

Brooklyn State Wildlife Area

In May, we purchased a 75-acre property in southern Dane County adjacent to the Brooklyn State Wildlife Area. The farm holds the key to restoring 800 acres of wet prairie and sedge meadow. Now that the ditch draining the field can be plugged, the hydrology of the entire area can be restored to its pre-settlement state. The property will be restored by the Wetland Reserve Program of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This purchase is the culmination of a project started 60 years ago by the DNR.

MARIO QUINTANA



Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park

In April, we purchased 23 acres to add to the City of Madison's Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park. This tract is the last undeveloped property between the main part of the park and residential areas to the south. Eventually, the city will build a bike trail through the property that will improve access to the park and link it with other city trails. This is our fifth project at the marsh.

Lower Wisconsin State Riverway

In December, we purchased 40 acres to add to the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway northwest of Mazomanie. This acquisition, from Wayne and Mae Wildt, fills a hole in the largest contiguous block of protected land in Dane County – over 3,500 acres and 3½ miles of Wisconsin River shoreline.

MARIO QUINTANA



Kingsley Bend on the Wisconsin River

In October, we partnered with the Ho-Chunk Nation to purchase an important addition to the Kingsley Bend Mound Group just south of the Wisconsin Dells. Kingsley Bend contains a collection of burial mounds sitting above the Wisconsin River.

THANK YOU to our members, donors and partners!

July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

Contributions to support operations are very important to us. 81% of these contributions came from individuals, 10% from foundations, and 9% from businesses. Thanks again.



Birding field trip at Hickory Hill Conservancy Park, May 2010

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A visit to Hook Lake Natural Area, June 2010

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MARCO QUINTANA

In April Quercus Land Stewardship Services conducted a prescribed burn on 87 acres of land owned by the Land Trust and the DNR at Patrick Marsh Natural Resource Area on the east side of Sun Prairie. The burn improved the quality of the prairie, marsh, and savanna habitat at the 320-acre public nature preserve. Funding was provided by the Sun Prairie Rotary, the District 6250 Rotary Foundation, Patrick Marsh Conservancy, and the Discovery Club students at Patrick Marsh Middle School. A grant from the Dane County Environmental Council paid for the development of the burn plan.

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Martha Kilgour

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Martin & Terry Evanson
Ruth Lieberman

In Memory of Dorothy Belle Daley

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In Honor of Martha Frey

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Wisconsin Land Fund

Legacy Circle

Legacy Circle members choose to remember the Natural Heritage Land Trust in a will or through other planned gifts.

Beth Kubly
Jim O'Brien
Pat Sammataro
James Welsh
Carla Wright

Financial Report

The Natural Heritage Land Trust's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30.

Between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010, the Land Trust received \$194,845 for operations and spent \$222,085 for operations. An additional \$27,240 came from reserve funds designated to support Land Trust operations.

Income for operations

Contributions	\$162,499
Rents	\$11,874
Service fees	\$18,099
Other income	\$2,373

Expenses for operations

Program Services	\$149,517
Outreach and education	
Easement monitoring	
Doing land deals	
Land management	
Management & Administration	\$24,557
Fundraising	\$47,983

\$2.52 million was provided by grants from local, state, and federal agencies, private gifts, and landowner donations to protect 171 acres of important land and water in 2009-2010.

Please contact us if you would like a copy of our audited financial statements for July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010. The Land Trust's federal tax returns (990s) are available on Guidestar (www.guidestar.org).

Grants for Land and Easement Acquisition

City of Madison: \$912,150
North American Wetlands Conservation Act: \$102,890
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: \$55,290
Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program: \$1,446,535

Gift of Land

Judy and Ed Borke

If you are a contributor and your name was left off the list, we apologize. Please call us at 258-9797 and we will correct our records.

Please remember NHLT in your will and consider becoming a member of our Legacy Circle.

Would you like to visit land that you helped permanently protect? Look for field trip announcements in our print newsletter, via email and on Facebook.

DEREK JOHNSON



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Land Trust Field Trips

One of the benefits of membership in the Natural Heritage Land Trust is field trips led by experts in plants, birds, geology and other disciplines. The outings provide opportunities for members to meet others who are interested in land conservation. We try to keep the field trip groups small to provide a high-quality experience for all.

This fall, members visited Westport Drumlin, east of Waunakee and north of Cherokee Marsh, on a warm, breezy evening. Rich Henderson of The Prairie Enthusiasts explained the history of the landscape and helped members identify prairie plants including **flax-leaved aster**, **heath aster**, **prairie bush-clover** (a federally-threatened plant), **prairie dropseed** and **silky aster**. The Land Trust has added 203 acres of land to the state natural area in the last two years.

Special thanks to JFNew for sponsoring the Westport Drumlin Aster Tour



Each \$100 of your investment in the Natural Heritage Land Trust > returned \$1,100 of land permanently protected this year.



**YOU HAVE HELPED
PERMANENTLY PROTECT
6,606 ACRES OF CHERISHED
LOCAL LAND SINCE 1983**