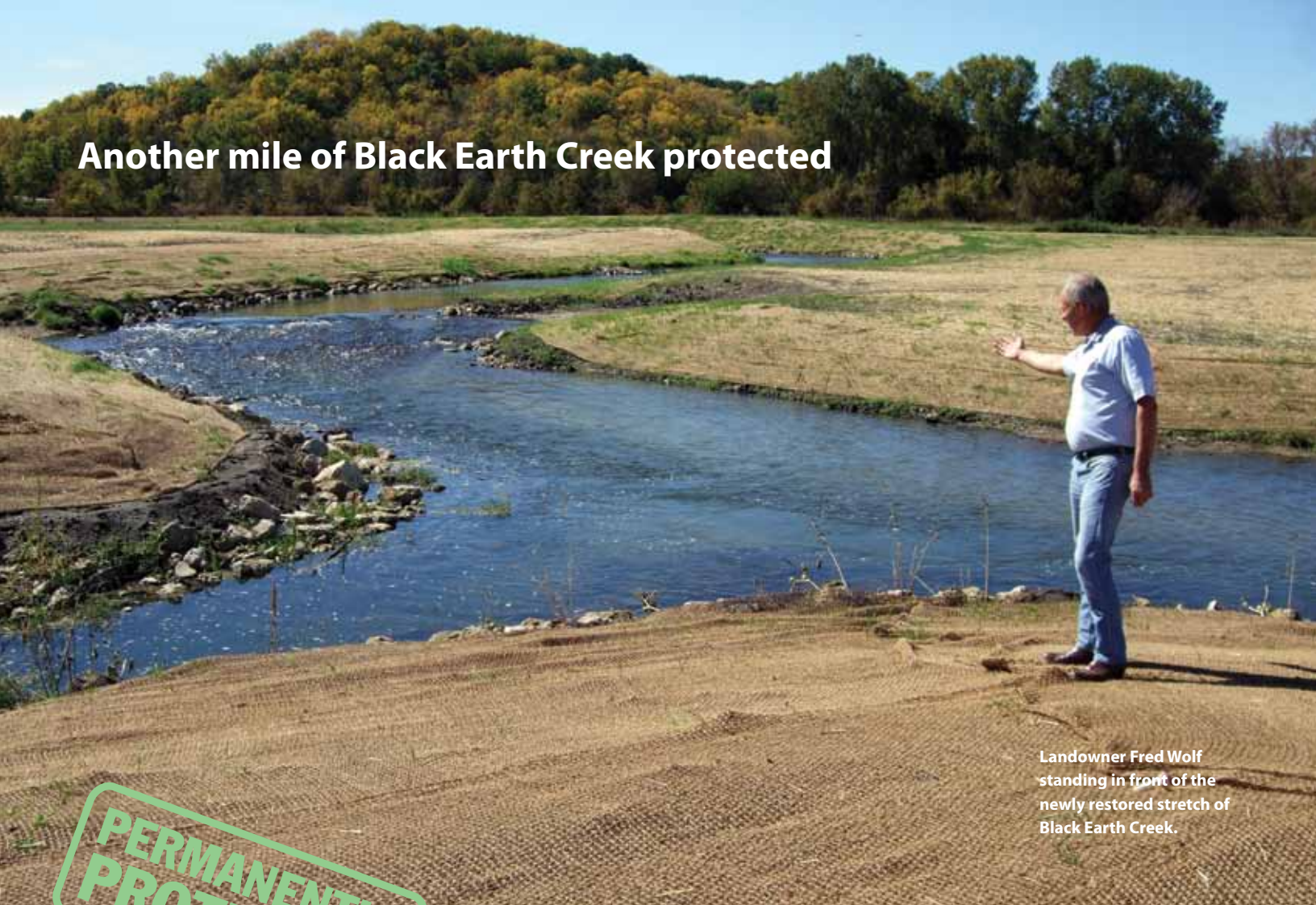


## Another mile of Black Earth Creek protected



Landowner Fred Wolf standing in front of the newly restored stretch of Black Earth Creek.

**PERMANENTLY  
PROTECTED**

**ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2011 JUNE 30, 2012**



**Natural Heritage  
LAND TRUST**

Conservation where you live

In September, Natural Heritage Land Trust, in partnership with Dane County, completed a 45-acre conservation easement that permanently protects and creates public access to over one mile of a newly restored stretch of Black Earth Creek just east of Mazomanie. The easement is part of an ambitious project to develop the first segment of the Good Neighbor Trail between Mazomanie and Middleton. A partnership of local governments and non-profit groups is spearheading the trail effort, which includes restoring the creek, reducing erosion along the stream bank, and reconnecting the creek to its floodplain.

The transformation of this stretch of Black Earth Creek has been nothing short of amazing. What was once a deep, straight channel behind a dam has been restored into a meandering stream with a gravelly bottom and gently sloping banks. "It's the best thing that's ever happened to this farm," says landowner Fred Wolf. "The Wolf family is really proud of what we've been able to do to restore this beautiful creek and make it available to the public," says Wolf, who has championed the creek restoration and trail project for many years. "This land doesn't belong to me. I might hold the title, but this place should be here for everyone to enjoy."

This easement is our 10th project in the Black Earth Creek valley, which is a priority conservation area for Natural Heritage Land Trust. Over the last decade, we have permanently protected over 760 acres of important lands in this iconic landscape in western Dane County.

Our thanks go to Fred Wolf and his family, whose generosity made this project possible. Funding came from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and Natural Heritage Land Trust members. ■





ALTHEA DOTZOUR

Natural Heritage Land Trust Staff, Caleb Pourchot, Heidi Habeger, Martha Frey, and Jim Welsh

When we completed the acquisition of the Wolf conservation and trail easement along Black Earth Creek in September, I was reminded that accomplishments like these are built on the vision and hard work of many people. Natural Heritage Land Trust member Connie Threinen heard about the completion of the Wolf easement and wrote me: "This news pleases me very much. Many years ago – probably 48 or 50 – my husband had a Boy Scout troop here in Middleton, and he, a fisheries biologist with DNR, had his troop of 15 or so boys go out to Black Earth Creek and work to strengthen the banks. I have forgotten exactly what they did, but I think the troop went out there 4 or 5 times on that project. I can hardly believe it was that long ago... I think it was the first effort ever made to protect the creek."

Connie's email put it well: the conservation of cherished places doesn't happen by accident. Indeed, over our three decades of success (Natural Heritage Land Trust turns thirty in 2013), Natural Heritage Land Trust has taken root in ground well-prepared by many thoughtful and hard-working individuals. With our firm foundation, effective organization, and clear mission, I look forward to what we all can accomplish in the years to come.

— Jim Welsh, Executive Director



## Conservation Roundup

July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

# PERMANENTLY PROTECTED

This year Natural Heritage Land Trust completed four land protection projects—permanently protecting 429 acres in four different areas—and managed land at our three nature preserves.

At **Anthony Branch Fisheries and Wildlife Area** we received the donation of a permanent conservation easement on a working farm. The 181-acre farm is at the headwaters of Anthony Branch; its large spring flows into the adjacent 1,000-acre complex of wetlands and uplands contained in the state Fisheries and Wildlife Area.

At **Allen Creek Wetlands State Natural Area** just south of Fort Atkinson we purchased 16.5 acres of sedge meadow, savanna, pond, and upland; this is the first acquisition of land at this new state natural area.

Between Jefferson and Cambridge, we helped **Jefferson County** place an agricultural conservation easement on the Rod Lea farm. Because of its high-quality soils, Rod's 221-acre farm was the highest-ranking farm considered by the state's Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) program.

East of the Wisconsin Dells, we purchased the last ten acres of privately-owned shoreline at **Amey Pond Wildlife Refuge**, a 225-acre DNR wildlife property that provides nesting and foraging habitat for wood ducks, coots, and mallards. In May, we donated the property to the state for the public's use and enjoyment.

In April, we conducted a prescribed burn at **Wilke Prairie Preserve** just north of Waunakee to enhance the prairie and wetland habitat at this 40-acre nature preserve given to us by Hazel Knudson in 1994.

Our "Prairie Partners" summer crew worked for us each Tuesday this summer at **Westport Drumlin** clearing non-native invasive shrubs like buckthorn and bush honeysuckle from underneath the oak savanna on the drumlin. The five-person crew also posted the boundaries of the 214-acre natural area and counted prairie bush clover plants, a federally-threatened species that has its largest population in the state at Westport Drumlin.

Natural Heritage Land Trust volunteers conducted two work parties at **Patrick Marsh** on the east side of Sun Prairie, continuing our six-year effort to restore an overgrown savanna.

We made our annual visits to the 53 conservation easements we hold on farmland, streambanks, and scenic areas throughout southcentral Wisconsin. The property inspections and meetings with the landowners help ensure that the landowners' conservation goals for their property (and the public investment that often comes with it), are always upheld. ■



In March Natural Heritage Land Trust purchased the last ten acres of privately-owned shoreline at Amey Pond.



Quercus Land Stewardship Services performed a prescribed burn at Wilke Prairie Preserve just north of Waunakee on April 7, 2012.

Allison Schmidt was one of our five-person "Prairie Partners" crew who cleared brush at Westport Drumlin this summer.



MARIO QUINTANA

## Natural Heritage Land Trust introduces new land stewardship database

This summer, Natural Heritage Land Trust Conservation Specialist Caleb Pourchot demonstrated a new land stewardship database at the Wisconsin Land Trust Retreat sponsored by Gathering Waters Conservancy. The year before, Caleb had seen an opportunity to improve Natural Heritage Land Trust's processes for land owner contact, conservation easement monitoring, and land purchasing. With support from Executive Director Jim Welsh, Caleb planned, designed and implemented the new land stewardship database. According to Jim, "we have seen many benefits from modernizing our land stewardship systems.



First and foremost, the new database improves institutional memory." Separately, Bryan Pierce, Executive Director of Northwoods Land Trust, was looking to add land stewardship functionality to his existing database. Through a partnership with Gathering Waters Conservancy, he commissioned Natural Heritage Land Trust to develop a second generation land stewardship database. The new database will become available to all land trusts in the state soon.

Caleb sat down with Membership Director Martha Frey and talked about the new land stewardship database.

**Martha:** How does this new land stewardship database help a land trust do its job?

**Caleb:** The process of taking a land conservation project from the point of initial landowner contact to completion has a hundred little steps. The new database takes that process and makes it easier to track. It organizes the information in a way that will make it easier for future land trust staff to sort out the history of any project. Before the database, there were a lot of different spreadsheets and folders full of paper notes to contend with.

**Martha:** Regarding conservation easement monitoring, how does the new land stewardship database help a land trust?

**Caleb:** This database allows us to track which easements need to be monitored and if there are issues we need to follow up on from prior visits. It keeps track of the changes in land ownership and it keeps the complete history of the easement in one place. It improves the quality of our conservation easement stewardship by ensuring that things don't fall through the cracks.

**Martha:** What else should our members know about the new land stewardship database?

**Caleb:** One of the most important functions of the database is to preserve our institutional memory. Land Trusts make promises to landowners to be around forever. If we are going to make good on those promises, we need tools that help preserve the full history of our conservation projects.

Caleb Pourchot joined the staff of Natural Heritage Land Trust in 2007. To read more about Caleb, see Caleb's profile under "who we are" at our website at [www.nhlt.org](http://www.nhlt.org). ■





On a gorgeous day in September, the Land Trust celebrated the completion of an agricultural conservation easement on John and Dorothy Priske's Fountain Prairie Farms with a dinner catered by chef Tory Miller of L'Etoile and Graze restaurants. The 190 guests toured the farm, learned about the Priskes' inspiring story, and enjoyed Tory's locally-sourced dinner. Thanks to the generosity of our partners, 100% of the ticket sales benefited Natural Heritage Land Trust's conservation work.

### We welcome stock gifts

In September 2012 alone, members contributed thousands of dollars of stock to support local land conservation. Stock gift donors receive a tax receipt from Natural Heritage Land Trust for the full value of the stock gift. Call 258-9797 or email [Martha@nhlt.org](mailto:Martha@nhlt.org) to request the simple instructions for making stock gift.

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 region.

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**Conservation Specialist**  
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Heidi Habeger

### Financial Report

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

Between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012, the Land Trust received \$292,071 for operations and spent \$296,636 for operations. The difference of \$4,565 came from reserve funds that support the operations of Natural Heritage Land Trust.

<b>Income for operations</b>		
Membership Contributions	\$183,134	63%
Consulting fees	\$21,082	7%
Grants	\$57,098	20%
Endowment Distribution	\$13,954	5%
Rental income	\$16,803	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$292,071</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Expenses for operations</b>		
Personnel	\$188,776	64%
Land Management	\$40,567	14%
Professional services (accounting, etc.)	\$18,724	6%
General and Administrative	\$48,569	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$296,636</b>	<b>100%</b>

\$1.05 million was provided by state and federal grants and landowner donations to protect 429 acres of important land and water in 2011-2012.

Each \$1 of your investment in Natural Heritage Land Trust returned almost \$6 of land permanently protected this year.

Please contact us if you would like a copy of our audited financial statements for July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012. The Land Trust's federal tax returns (990s) are available on Guidestar ([www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org)).

# Thank You to our members, donors, & partners!

**Leverage: Each \$1 of your investment in Natural Heritage Land Trust returned almost \$6 of land permanently protected this year. This list is a wonderful testament to people's commitment to the land and to Natural Heritage Land Trust.**

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Alliant Energy Foundation  
American Forest Foundation  
John J. Frautschi Family Foundation  
Hooper Foundation  
MGE Foundation  
Madison Community Foundation  
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July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

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 Mike & June Bauman Denruiter

*In Memory of Walter Bauman*  
 Jane Bauman & Vera Bauman

*In Honor of Lou Bruch*  
 Richard & Doris Dubielzig

*In Memory of Emily Earley*  
 John & Cate Harrington

*In Memory of Randy Eroen*  
 Chad & Lisa Pierick

*In Honor of Rosalind Gausman  
 and all she has done for the  
 Town of Dunn*  
 Brian & Elizabeth Osterhaus

*In Memory of Harold Kruse*  
 John & Cate Harrington

*In Memory of Margaret Lalor*  
 Ed & Sue Miniham

*In Memory of Robert E. Lee*  
 Kevin, Martin, Peter, Susan,  
 Christopher, & David M. Lee

*In Memory of Crystal Lokken  
 & Elaine Smiley*  
 Wes & Jane Licht

*In Honor of Ed & Sue Miniham*  
 Mark & Barb Jung

*In Honor of Bobbi Rohrs & Kenny*  
 Anonymous

*In Honor of Sal & Fred*  
 Elizabeth & Lawrence Schmitz

*In Honor of Kevin Shelley*  
 Deanne & Steve Rohde

*In Honor of Jo Ann Six*  
 Eldred & Virginia Swingen

*In Honor of Charles Strobel*  
 Anonymous

*In Memory of Ralph  
 & Marge Van Haren*  
 Stan Kanter

*In Memory of Joyce Wartmann*  
 William Wartmann

#### Legacy Circle

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

Johanna Allex  
 Clemens & June Baime  
 Lawrence J. Hitch  
 Beth Kubly  
 Bill Lunney & Judie Pfeifer  
 Jim & Rumi O'Brien  
 Evan & Jane Pizer  
 Cary & Scott Reich  
 Pat Sammataro  
 Mary Trewartha  
 Jim Welsh  
 Carla Wright

#### Bequests

Emily Earley

*Please remember Natural  
 Heritage Land Trust, Inc.  
 in your will or estate plan.*

LEGACY CIRCLE

*In Honor of Jim Welsh  
 & 39 years of friendship*  
 Herbert Ley

*In Memory of J.J. & Pat Werner*  
 Gary Werner & Melanie Lord

#### Gifts of Conservation Easements

DKR Rutland, LLC

#### Gifts to Natural Heritage Land Trust Endowments at Madison Community Foundation

Emily Earley  
 Phoebe R. & John D. Lewis  
 Foundation  
 David K. Reinke

#### Grants for Land Protection

Farm and Ranch Lands  
 Protection Program  
 Knowles-Nelson  
 Stewardship Program  
 North American Wetlands  
 Conservation Act  
 Working Lands Initiative  
 PACE Program

*If you are a member and your name  
 was left off this list or misspelled, we  
 apologize. Please call us at 258-9797  
 and we will correct our records.*

#### Business & Organization Members

##### \$1,000 - \$1,999

PAN-O-GOLD Baking Co.  
 /Village Hearth Breads  
 Wheeler, Van Sickle & Anderson, S.C.

##### \$500 - \$999

Goodland Tree Works, Inc.  
 Haen Real Estate

##### \$250 - \$499

Bremser Group, Inc. CPAs  
 Haskins Law LLC  
 Town of Windsor

##### \$100 - \$249

Black Earth Creek Watershed  
 Association  
 Fountain Prairie, Inc

Friends of Cherokee Marsh  
 The Geo Group, Inc.  
 Isthmus Surveying  
 National Mutual Benefit  
 Summers Christmas Tree  
 Farm LLC  
 Weary Traveler, Inc.  
 West Side Garden Club

##### Less than \$100

Black Earth Creek  
 Conservation Organization  
 Community Pharmacy  
 O'Connell Pharmacy Ltd  
 Taylor Conservation LLC  
 Upper Sugar River Watershed  
 Association  
 Waunona Garden Club

## What's Inside

- Black Earth Creek trail easement
- 429 acres: roundup of protected land
- 2011-2012 member list
- Gift membership order form



Conservation where you live

303 S Paterson St, Suite 6  
Madison, WI 53703

[www.nhlt.org](http://www.nhlt.org)  
608 258-9797



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Non-Profit  
Organization  
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Madison, WI

YOU HAVE HELPED  
PERMANENTLY PROTECT  
**8,181 ACRES** OF CHERISHED  
LOCAL LAND SINCE 1983

## SAVE THE DATE: Celebrating 30 Years of Land Stewardship 1983-2013

Thursday, April 25, 2013, 5:30 – 9:30 pm  
Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery on the UW-Madison Campus

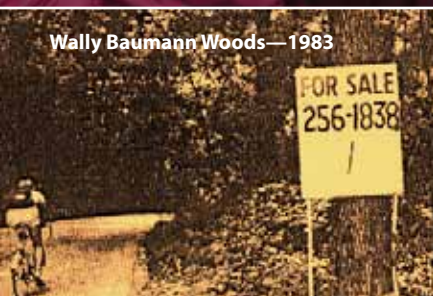
**30** years

Take root. Grow deep.  
Look to the future.



Hickory Hill—2006

Wally Baumann Woods—1983



Cherokee Marsh—1991



Town of Dunn—1997



Town of Windsor—2010

