



Natural Heritage
LAND TRUST

Conservation where you live

Year in Protection 2012-2013
Building on 30 Years

30 years

Take root. Grow deep.
Look to the future.



MARIO QUINTANA

Natural Heritage Land Trust turned 30 years old on September 22, 2013, and the run up to our birthday has been inspirational. We hope you will enjoy reading about the impressive conservation successes you made possible in the past year: ten land protection projects permanently protecting 1,379 acres of great places like the Sugar River, Cherokee Marsh, and Black Earth Creek. In the past 30 years, you have helped permanently protect more than 9,101 acres at 90 wonderful places in Dane County and the vicinity.

More good work is at hand. Communities and landowners continue to turn to us to help them reach their conservation goals: we are a critical partner in bringing projects from an idea to fruition. We are at work right now acquiring the missing link in the Good Neighbor Trail between Mazomanie and Wisconsin Heights School along Black Earth Creek, helping the Historic Indian Agency House in Portage permanently protect the 162 acre landscape in which the house sits (including a segment of the Ice Age Trail), putting one mile of Yahara River shoreline into public ownership north of Stoughton, and more.

The success of Natural Heritage Land Trust is your success. Thank you for making it possible.

Willi Van Haren, *President*
Jim Welsh, *Executive Director*

ON THE COVER: Natural Heritage Land Trust field trip to see the 2½ miles of Sugar River permanently protected in May in partnership with Dane County.

COVER PHOTO: MARIO QUINTANA

SCOTT LUCEY



The Lucey family permanently protected their farm in the fertile Black Earth Creek valley with an agricultural conservation easement.

In the **Black Earth Creek valley** we helped fulfill George Lucey's wish that his 178 acre farm would remain a farm forever by placing an agricultural conservation easement on it. And just downstream, Fred Wolf is realizing his dream of restoring over one mile of the creek as it flows through his farm and opening it up for the public to enjoy as part of the Good Neighbor Trail. Natural Heritage Land Trust and Dane County hold the 45 acre conservation easement that has facilitated that dream.

Along the **Sugar River**, we partnered with Dane County to purchase an incredible 382 acre property from the Bruce Company of Middleton. This property will become a public wildlife area and afford outstanding access to almost 2½ miles of river. Downstream, we partnered with the Village of Belleville to purchase 37 acres of river-front lands that add to the village's **Lake Belle View park**. Even further downstream, in partnership with the DNR, we purchased an additional 200 acres of land for the **Avon Bottoms State Wildlife Area**. This jewel in Rock County provides a near-wilderness experience as the river winds through a floodplain forest that is home to prothonotary warblers, acadian flycatchers, and yellow-crowned night-herons.

John and Dorothy Priske of **Fountain Prairie Farm** and 2010 "Conservation Farmers of the Year" worked with Natural Heritage Land Trust to take the next logical step in their stewardship of the land and permanently protected their 277 acre Columbia County farm with an agricultural conservation easement.

We purchased some of the last remaining undeveloped uplands on the south side of **Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park**. The six acre property, which is now part of Madison's Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park, is adjacent to a school and will be

Avon Bottoms State Wildlife Area is a huge complex of floodplain forest and other wetlands along the Sugar River in Rock County.



MIKE FOY



MARIO QUINTANA

Hook Lake, in the Town of Dunn, is a rare example of a bog in southern Wisconsin.



TOM KRAUSKOPF

The restoration of Black Earth Creek on Fred Wolf's farm has attracted the attention of the national Trout Unlimited organization, which sent three busloads of members out to tour the project this year.

In the **Town of Dunn**, we partnered with the town to complete an 80 acre agricultural conservation easement that builds on the town's successful Rural Preservation Program and protects some of the northern shoreline of **Hook Lake**. Along Lake Waubesa and **Waubesa Wetlands State Natural Area** we partnered with the town and Dane County to purchase a 39 acre property with the largest frontage on the Madison lakes still in private ownership.

Our Prairie Partners summer crew worked for us each Tuesday over the summer at **Westport Drumlin** and **Wilke Prairie**

Waubesa Wetlands is one of the highest quality and most diverse wetlands remaining in southern Wisconsin.



CALVIN B. DEWITT

a valuable resource for nature-based learning.

We helped the **Town of Windsor** make progress on its purchase of development rights (PDR) program with the completion of the town's second agricultural conservation easement, this one on a 136 acre farm along Highway 51. We partner with the town to implement their ambitious plan for preserving their productive and high-quality agricultural land east of Highway 51.



The Operation Fresh Start crew built a fence around the parking lot at Westport Drumlin.

Preserve clearing non-native invasive shrubs like buckthorn and honeysuckle from underneath the oak savanna on the drumlin. The five-person crew also counted prairie bush clover plants, a federally-threatened species that has its largest population in the state at Westport Drumlin.

Operation Fresh Start completed savanna and prairie habitat restoration work at **Patrick Marsh, Westport Drumlin**, and **Hickory Hill**, rebuilt 390 feet of trail at **Village of Cross Plains Conservancy Park**, cut new trail at **Lake Belle View Park** in Belleville, and erected a fence around the parking lot at Westport Drumlin .

Natural Heritage Land Trust volunteers conducted two work parties at **Patrick Marsh** on the east side of Sun Prairie, continuing our seven-year effort to restore an overgrown savanna. Our volunteers also joined two Prairie Enthusiasts work parties at **Westport Drumlin**, burning brush piles built by the Prairie Partners.

We made our annual visits to the 63 farms, streambanks, and scenic areas permanently protected by the conservation easements we hold in south-central 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.

Volunteers burn brush piles at Westport Drumlin at a work party led by The Prairie Enthusiasts.



MARIO QUINTANA

Natural Heritage Land Trust by the Numbers

July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

Your individual gift makes a big difference!

564 Members

\$265,610 in Contributions

10 Places Permanently Protected

1,379 Acres Permanently Protected

\$6,022,730 Value of Land Permanently Protected

*Your contribution goes far but stays local: **Every \$100 you contributed resulted in \$2,200 in the value of the land permanently protected.***

Income for operations

Membership Contributions	\$265,610	67%
Consulting fees	\$30,756	8%
Grants	\$74,445	18%
Endowment Distributions	\$13,466	3%
Rental and other income	\$13,425	4%
Total	\$397,702	100%

Expenses for operations

Professional Staff	\$180,729	61%
Land Management	\$28,117	9%
Professional services (accounting, etc.)	\$16,906	6%
General and Administrative	\$72,781	24%
Total	\$298,533	100%

To view details on income and expenses for the fiscal year July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, please see our financial report posted at www.guidestar.org. The 2012-2013 report should be posted by December 2013.

Mission

Natural Heritage Land Trust protects natural areas, wild-life 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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Gratitude

THANK YOU to our members, donors, & partners! We work hard to be worthy of your gifts. Natural Heritage Land Trust received \$265,610 in contributions in the 2013 fiscal year, which ended June 30. 82% of contributions came from individuals. Thank you again.

July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

\$10,000 - \$20,000

Kenneth Wood

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Doug & Sherry Caves
2012 Black Hawk Ridge Trail Run

\$2,000 - \$4,999

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GIVER CLOSE UP: Kenneth Wood

Kenneth Wood was very close to nature, in life and work. A Shorewood Hills native, Ken lived in the Town of Vermont for the past 19 years. At the UW Arboretum, he worked tirelessly as a naturalist for 30 years. On June 27, 2013, Ken made a legacy gift to Natural Heritage Land Trust of \$20,000. We are grateful for the generosity of Ken Wood who passed away on August 16, 2013.

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Frank & Mariana Weinhold

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The board and staff gratefully acknowledge and deeply appreciate the following memorial gifts and honorariums.

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In Honor of Norman C. Anderson

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In Memory of his wife Joan Gefke

Stan Gefke

In Memory of Patricia Hitchcock

Donna & Eugene Woller

In Memory of Thomas D. Jones

Sue Jones

GIVER CLOSE UP: Jane Bauman

Upon hearing news of completed conservation projects, Jane often sent congratulations to Executive Director Jim Welsh. With her mother Vera Bauman, Jane attended our Remembering Wally Bauman Woods party in 2008. Jane's father was Wally Bauman, who as Dane County Supervisor, played a key role, working with other conservationists and elected officials, to make our organization's first project a reality. After Jane passed away on April 30, 2013, more than 40 memorial gifts were sent to Natural Heritage Land Trust.

In Memory of Jane C. Bauman

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In Memory of Scott Mittnacht

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In Memory of Hartman Olson

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In Honor of Cliff & Susan Reynolds

Jo Reynolds & Stan Solheim

GIVER CLOSE UP: Harriet Riley

As an English as a second language teacher in the Madison school system, Harriet shared her love of nature and concern for protecting the environment with her students. During her life, she gave to Natural Heritage Land Trust in many ways including serving on the board of directors and coordinating membership activities. Harriet passed away peacefully with her family by her side on August 16, 2012. We were honored to receive memorial gifts from Harriet's friends and family.

In Memory of Harriet Riley

Lois M Baker
Art & Mary Garfield
Anna Garner-Strickon
Jerry & Joan Indermark
Ken & Mary Maxwell
Walter A. & Jean Meanwell
John Montgomery
Ruth Oppedahl
Liz & Marilyn Radel

In Memory of Eugene Treinen

Jim & Anita Treinen

In Memory of William Welsh

Susan Gruber
Mary Jean Huston
James Koltes
Ken & Esther Lange
Herbert Ley
Nancy McGill
Cary & Scott Reich
Barry Perkel & Ellen Rosner
Nancy Schlimgen & Rich Lampe
William & Gail Van Haren
Benita Walker & Joe Senulis
Carla Wright

Legacy Circle

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



Bequests

Martha Lound -- \$50,000

Please remember Natural Heritage Land Trust, Inc. in your will or estate plan. We accept bequests and life insurance proceeds.

Foundations

Dane County Environmental Council
John J. Frautschi Family Foundation
Madison Community Foundation
MGE Foundation
Partners for Recreation & Conservation

The Vogel Foundation
The Wisconsin Land Fund of the Greater
Green Bay Community Foundation

Gifts & Partial Gifts of Land & Easements

Bruce Company
Cherokee Park, Inc.
Donald Cosgrove
Ray Matteson
Fred Wolf

Gifts to Natural Heritage Land Trust Endowments at Madison Community Foundation

Mike & Doreen Festge
Fountain Prairie, Inc
Sue & Dave Hineline
George Lucey
Cindy & John Regan
Town of Dunn
Town of Windsor

Grants for Land Protection

City of Madison
Dane County Conservation Fund
Dane County Land & Water
Legacy Fund
Department of Agriculture, Trade, &
Consumer Protection—Purchase
of Agricultural Conservation
Easements
Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program
The Conservation Fund
Town of Dunn
United State Department
of Agriculture—Farm & Ranchlands
Protection Program

In preparing this report, we tried to be accurate and complete. If there is an omission or error, please accept our apologies and call us at 608-258-9797 or Martha@nhlt.org so we can correct our records.

What's Inside

- Ten conservation successes
- Complete member roster
- Volunteer list



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Conservation where you live

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Places Worth Knowing

We're planning more field trips than ever and hope you find one that interests you! Visit the places you've helped protect and meet the special people who share your commitment to conservation where you live. It's your chance to enjoy and learn more about places you can visit to hike, bike, snowshoe, fish and more. **Save these dates!**



Cherokee Marsh Winter Snowshoe

Saturday, February 1, 2014
9:00 am - 11:00 am

Beat the Wisconsin winter doldrums with a snowshoe through this wetland gem with **Mary Binkley**, Natural Heritage Land Trust member and naturalist.



Martha Lound Spring Bird Walk at UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve

Saturday, May 17, 2014
7:00 am - 9:00 am

Don't miss this opportunity for a morning of birding during the spring migration with **John Feith**, a local ornithologist. This field trip is in memory of Natural Heritage Land Trust member Martha Lound, a champion for the cause of bird conservation.



Sugar River Paddle **Saturday, May 31, 2014**

Calling all paddlers! Experienced paddle racer and Natural Heritage Land Trust Board President, **Willi Van Haren**, will lead us through permanently protected sections of the Sugar River. This is a half-day trip for paddlers that are up for the challenge. Everyone is responsible for bringing their own equipment.

All field trips are free of charge but pre-registration is required. Reserve your spot today! Email Heidi at Heidi@nhlt.org or call 258-9797.

Want to receive future field trip updates and work party invitations? Go to our website and give us your email to ensure you receive the latest news and invitations. And we'd love to hear from you too! Email heidi@nhlt.org if you have an idea for a field trip or have an interest in a guided outing to a special place we've protected.