

2014–2015

# Connecting Communities, People, and Land



More than 100 people turned out October 4th to dedicate the new wildlife viewing platform located on a rise of land on the west shore of Patrick Marsh. The platform is part of a series of improvements designed to encourage people to visit Patrick Marsh, on Sun Prairie's eastern doorstep. Other improvements include a new trail connecting neighborhoods to Patrick Marsh, four interpretive signs, and a "bird gate" and updated displays at the kiosk at the parking lot off of Stone Quarry Road.

Seen here on the platform are Judie Pfeifer, Ann Marie Lunney, Bill Lunney, Alex Lunney, and Senator Mark Miller. Bill and Judie's granddaughter Ann Marie is one of the students at Patrick Marsh Middle School who created artwork for the new interpretive signs.

Dear Land Trust supporters:

When landowners and communities agree that a property with important conservation values should be preserved in perpetuity, Natural Heritage Land Trust acts. We work with partners across a spectrum of interests, aware of but not beholden to the political acrimony around us. Wisconsinites understand that our quality of life is intimately connected to our quality of land.

To nurture this insight, Natural Heritage Land Trust has been more active than ever connecting communities to land. After many years of acquiring land around Patrick Marsh, alongside Dane County and the Wisconsin DNR, we have led multiple efforts to increase the community's appreciation of this natural gem. Two hundred and fifty seventh graders from Patrick Marsh Middle School planted an 18 acre prairie that flourished with flowers and grasses this summer. The Prairie Partners work crew and many local volunteers completed the restoration of a three acre savanna. This summer, Operation Fresh Start constructed a beautiful wildlife viewing platform with a unique bird-shaped design—it is long enough for a whole class of students to get a front row view of the marsh. And now we have a new trail connecting the marsh to the neighborhood on its south side.

Imagine this level of interaction between people and their precious environment all over our region. What better way to ensure lasting stewardship than to develop true appreciation for the land. With your support, Natural Heritage Land Trust is making it happen. Thank you for a fantastic 2015, and we look forward to continued success.

—Land Trust Board President Jed White



Jed White and his personal next generation of conservationists, Azi and Philo.



# Conservation Roundup

We have just completed another great year for connecting people and communities with the land. With your support, we permanently protected wonderful parts of our cherished landscape and created inviting magnets to attract people outside to learn about and enjoy nature.

**A**t **Patrick Marsh**, we created wonderful new features—including a unique bird-shaped wildlife viewing platform overlooking the marsh—that are already attracting more visitors to this 320 acre wildlife area on the eastern doorstep of Sun Prairie. In doing so we helped connect at-risk youth in the Operation Fresh Start program with meaningful work constructing the platform. Young minds at the adjacent Patrick Marsh Middle School helped author interpretive

signs and strengthened their connections to this amazing outdoor classroom. A new trail physically connects a whole neighborhood where no access to the marsh had been before. And a new “bird gate” in the parking lot is a signal to passersby that there is more to discover at Patrick Marsh. Our work received very strong support from the community, including Sun Prairie Rotary Foundation, Evjue Foundation, Courtier Foundation, Natural Resources Foundation, Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, August Foundation, Dane County Environmental Council and more than 60 members of Patrick Marsh Conservancy and Natural Heritage Land Trust.

In Mazomanie, our partners completed construction of the bike/hike trail between the village and the Wisconsin Heights Middle and High School. Our conservation efforts provided the permanent corridor for this new community asset, which has reconnected people to a restored **Black Earth Creek** and provided a safe, healthy way to get to school.

North of Stoughton, we permanently protected over a mile of frontage along the **Yahara River**. The City of Stoughton plans to connect the 40 acre property to the existing bike path system to increase the community’s access to the river that helps define its identity.

In Marquette County, we purchased nearly 200 acres of land, 40 of which belonged to a young John Muir’s family—their first homestead in America. **John Muir** is so often associated with California, but through purchasing this land, we’ve helped connect people with his special legacy in Wisconsin.

ANGIE BANKS



Julian Llompallas was one of 37 crew members from Operation Fresh Start who built the wildlife viewing platform this summer.

**PERMANENTLY PROTECTED**

MARIO QUINTANA



More than one mile of the Yahara River is now protected north of Stoughton.

ANGIE BANKS

Land Trust board members Greg Hyer and Tom Krauskopf on a hike on the new trail along Black Earth Creek this spring.



**PERMANENTLY PROTECTED**

BRANT ERICKSON



Land Trust and community members explored the John Muir property at our land dedication event in June.



Matt Frank with his wife Kay



Greg Hyer

## Natural Heritage Land Trust Welcomes Two New Board Members

We are pleased to welcome two new members to the Natural Heritage Land Trust Board of Directors—

**Matt Frank** and **Greg Hyer**. Matt Frank is an attorney with Murphy Desmond, S.C., where he practices environmental and energy law, and is a member of the firm's practice group for entrepreneurs and start-ups. Matt served as Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources from 2007 through 2010, where he led efforts to pass the Great Lakes Compact, reduce mercury and phosphorous pollution in state waters, and expand the

Knowles Nelson Stewardship program. He grew up in Cross Plains, where he fished the Black Earth Creek. Matt and his wife live in Middleton where they raised three boys.

Greg Hyer is Chair of the Town of Cross Plains Board of Supervisors and a member of the Town Plan Commission. He is also President of the Black Earth Creek Watershed Association that advocates for good stewardship practices. He has nationally recognized professional experience in real estate development for science and technology companies tied to universities and senior management experience in government. Greg and his wife, Jane enjoy cycling, skiing, hiking and fishing in the Black Earth Creek Watershed, state and national parks, preserves and public open spaces.



CHRISTINE LEIGH PHOTOGRAPHY

### Legacy Circle

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Johanna Allex  
Dana & Pat Chabot  
Beth Kubly  
Bill Lunney & Judie Pfeifer  
Jim & Rumi O'Brien  
Evan & Jane Pizer  
Cary & Scott Reich  
Sheryl Renslo  
Pat Sammataro  
Mary Trewartha  
Jim Welsh  
Carla Wright

When you include Natural Heritage Land Trust in your estate plans or beneficiary designations, you are helping secure the future of our natural areas, rivers and streams, wildlife habitat, and working farms in and around Dane County. Thoughtful planning today can extend your meaningful impact

well beyond your lifetime. Contact Director of Major & Planned Gifts, Heidi Habeger at (608) 258-9797 or [heidi@nhlt.org](mailto:heidi@nhlt.org) to learn about joining our Legacy Circle. [www.nhlt.org/legacy](http://www.nhlt.org/legacy)

## By the Numbers

July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Your individual gift makes a big difference!

786 supporters (up from 633 last year)

Renewing supporters: 77%

238 Acres Permanently Protected

\$1,521,000 Value of Land Permanently Protected

Between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 Natural Heritage Land Trust received \$423,662 for operations and spent \$372,983 for operations. In addition, Natural Heritage Land Trust received \$1,877,900 from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Dane County Conservation Fund, and other partners to acquire and protect 238 acres of land.

### Income for Operations

Contributions from individuals	\$319,362	75%
Grants	\$66,491	16%
Consulting fees	\$18,769	4%
Endowment distribution	\$17,652	4%
Other	\$1,388	0%
Total operating income	\$423,662	100%

### Expenses for Operations

Program services	\$255,899	69%
Management and general	\$38,293	10%
Fundraising	\$78,790	21%
Total operating expenses	\$372,982	100%

As of June 30, 2015 Natural Heritage Land Trust had total assets of \$6,869,000 and liabilities of \$63,000.

### Assets include:

Operating cash and investments	\$381,900
Funds set aside for land acquisition	\$292,700
Funds set aside for land stewardship	\$271,900
Easement monitoring endowment	\$222,200
General operating endowment	\$102,800
Land held for conservation	\$5,560,000
Other assets	\$38,100
Total assets	\$6,869,600

To view details, please see our financial report posted at [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org). The 2014-2015 report should be posted by December 2015.

## Mission

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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# Thank You Natural Heritage Land Trust Supporters

With your generous donations of money, time, expertise, and passion, together we are ensuring that important land and water resources in Dane County and the surrounding area are *permanently protected* in perpetuity.

July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

## \$20,000 +

John Reindl

## \$10,000 - \$19,999

Joe & Mary Ellyn Sensenbrenner  
William Van Haren  
Glenn Reinl & Sara Krebsbach

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MARIO QUINTANA

*I support Natural Heritage Land Trust because  
it is important to protect land from development.  
Once it's gone, you can't get it back.*

—Pat Sammataro, volunteer, monthly contributor, 15+ year  
supporter, and Legacy Circle Member. Pictured with her  
husband, Pete Sammataro, on a Sugar River field trip.

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*When I was DNR Secretary I truly appreciated  
 the great work NHLT did and continues to  
 do to preserve the beautiful natural places of our  
 landscape, bringing landowners, volunteers and donors  
 together to do great things. It's a privilege to be  
 part of that effort as a board member and help build  
 upon NHLT's great legacy of land stewardship—  
 preserving land for future generations.*

—Matt Frank, new Board Member

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Thank you to the dedicated volunteers who devote many hours to serve on our board and/or committees, help with field trips, assist in the office, take photos and much more:

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*We believe in cherishing and protecting local places. They're not only ours, but also our grandchildren's. And that's exactly what Natural Heritage Land Trust is doing.*

—Sven Midelfort and Petra Ressler, new Natural Heritage Land Trust supporters

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In preparing this report, we tried to be accurate and complete. If there is an omission or spelling error, please accept our apologies and call Sara Graves at 608-258-9797 or sara@nhlt.org and we will correct our records. This report lists all gifts received between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

**No matter how you chose to give, every Natural Heritage Land Trust supporter helps protect our cherished local landscape.**

Did you know there are many ways to give?

- Your **company may match** your donation—making every dollar go twice or even three times further to protect our natural resources.
- You can donate to Natural Heritage Land Trust through **EarthShare** Wisconsin in their workplace giving campaigns.
- Join our **monthly giving** program to make a greater impact on the places you love. Your automatic monthly gift saves time, paper and postage, and you can cancel anytime.

Contact Director of Major & Planned Gifts, Heidi Habeger at (608) 258-9797 or heidi@nhlt.org for more information about these and other ways to give.

<sup>1</sup>Patrick Marsh Improvements Donors / <sup>2</sup>Event Sponsors



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## Places worth knowing



Whether you're looking for serenity in nature or adventure and fun, you won't want to miss this season's snowshoeing experiences. These field trips are free but space is limited and pre-registration is required. Visit us at [www.nhlt.org](http://www.nhlt.org) to register online today.

### Lodi Marsh Snowshoe

Sunday, January 24th, 2016 / 9:30 – 11:30 am

Lodi Marsh Wildlife Area is located about one mile southwest of Lodi on the Dane County/Columbia County border. It contains a diverse mix of wetland and upland ecosystems in a very scenic setting. Join Gary Werner, Executive Director of The Partnership for the National Trails System, as we explore the oak savannas, woodlands, prairie and marsh where we recently acquired a 26 acre property. Bring the family for an adventure that will take you on and off the Ice Age Trail, through varied terrain with a few hills.

### Cherokee Marsh Snowshoe

Saturday, February 13th, 2016 / 9:00 - 11:00 am

Cherokee Marsh was named a "wetland gem" by The Wisconsin Wetlands Association in 2009. Mary Binkley, Natural Heritage Land Trust supporter and naturalist, will lead us along 1.5 miles of easy trails, with a warm beverage and snacks to be enjoyed at the end. If there is little or no snow cover, the event will be a hike instead of a snowshoe. Don't miss this opportunity to visit a place you've helped protect and meet other Natural Heritage Land Trust supporters who share your commitment to conservation where you live.

Thanks to our sponsors:



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