

Natural Heritage Land Trust is now Groundswell!



GROUNDSWELL
CONSERVANCY



I like to say that the conservation of cherished places doesn't happen by accident. So on behalf of the board, staff, and volunteers of Groundswell Conservancy (some of whom are pictured here enjoying a moment in the sun after sowing prairie seed at Patrick Marsh this spring), **thank you to the landowners, partners, and supporters of Groundswell Conservancy for making this year one of the most successful for land conservation and our community since Groundswell was established 34 years ago.** Please see inside for details of what we have accomplished together in the last year. I hope to see you in the coming year at some of the special places in and around Dane County that you have helped permanently protect.

Jim Welsh
Executive Director

President's message

We are always tempted in our Annual Report to focus on our accomplishments. This organization is undeniably effective, and we had a particularly satisfying year in the amount and quality of lands we helped protect. We are also tempted to

bemoan the headwinds we face in the state political climate and local development pressures.

By far the most powerful influence on our progress, or lack thereof, is the individual. The landowner who is willing to conserve. The partner who is willing to share the load. You, our sup-

porters, who will us to keep pushing.

And our Executive Director, Jim Welsh. Jim has built a legacy in land protection while piloting us through changing times. We are incredibly proud that Gathering Waters recently recognized Jim as Conservationist of the Year!

But conservation is only permanent when its advocates are both vigilant and strong. Our new name, Groundswell, will help us engage and serve sections of the community we haven't reached before. We're hopeful that you can help us deepen our roots at the same time.

Jed White
President



Conservation Roundup

PROTECTED FOREVER



BEN JONES

Farmer Bob Uphoff spoke at the Town's 20th anniversary celebration about the critical role of farming in all our lives.

The **Town of Dunn** community has shown what a dedicated group of citizens can do to ensure their special place is protected forever, and 2017 marks the 20th anniversary of our enormously successful partnership with the Town. Since the first piece of farmland was permanently protected in 1997, the Town of Dunn and Groundswell Conservancy have together permanently protected 28 farms covering more than 3,100 acres of some of the best farmland in the nation. But we are not stopping here.

This year we helped the Town protect six additional farms forever. And in September, we came together with Town residents to celebrate the 20th anniversary with a community potluck on the site of the original 1997 land purchase and recognize some of the individuals who had the foresight to set the Town on its path of success. ■

Avon Bottoms is a biologically rich area along the lower Sugar River in Rock County, a great place for birding, canoeing, and hunting. Its floodplain forest habitat is critical to many threatened species including the beautiful prothonotary warbler. In May we purchased 50 acres of important habitat, including ~2,000 feet on the south side of the Sugar River next to the Rock County Sugar River Park and boat launch on S. Nelson Road. ■



WISCONSIN DNR

Lodi Marsh is a beautiful area of wetlands and rolling hills in northern Dane and southern Columbia Counties. The 2.5-mile segment of the Ice Age Trail running through the wildlife area is spectacular in summer or you can pack your snowshoes for a great winter expedition. In June we completed negotiations with the Miller family and purchased 58 acres of additional wetlands—important land that will be protected forever as wildlife habitat. ■

In June, we used a voluntary land protection agreement—a perpetual conservation easement—to help the Zoller family of Poynette permanently protect their special place overlooking the **Rowan Creek** valley. The 165-acre property has dry prairie and oak savanna habitat for a number of threatened species. Your annual support ensures that we will always be able to uphold the land use restrictions placed on the property to make sure that its natural beauty and wildlife habitat remain forever undisturbed. ■



MARIO QUINTANA

If you've ever gazed out at the **Black Earth Creek valley** from the Festge County Park overlook west of Cross Plains, much of your view was of Pam Allen's lovely farm. In February, Groundswell joined forces with Dane County to take over from American Farmland Trust the responsibility of permanently protecting the farm. The transfer of the agricultural conservation easement on the farm puts the protection of this special place in the iconic Black Earth Creek landscape into capable local hands. ■

At **Westport Drumlin Preserve**, 28 community visionaries joined us to brainstorm an improved preserve gateway. Our first step in the gateway was to deconstruct and demolish eight unused buildings. At **Patrick Marsh**, 250 Patrick Marsh Middle School students planted another 18 acres of prairie for native pollinators. At the front of it all, our dedicated volunteers have worked to sustain ongoing restoration efforts along with our Prairie Partners and Operation Fresh Start crews at both preserves. ■



LUKE KLOBERDANZ

Kids doing trail work at Lodi Marsh.



With your support, Groundswell has been busy at **Patrick Marsh**, east of Sun Prairie. We are improving trails, restoring oak savanna, and planting prairies. To be more efficient and effective as land managers, it made sense this year to swap our Wilke Preserve north of Waunakee with land Dane County owned on the south side of Patrick Marsh. The traded land remains permanently protected and the swap helps us focus our work. ■



This year our Prairie Partners crew was (left to right) Krista Farrell, Alex Gall, Kaitlyn Kozak, Emily Jorgensen and Caleb Burst.



MARIO QUINTANA



BEN JONES

Celebration

We've come to celebrate the land.

*We've come to honor those
With determined foresight
In their hearts...*

Guarding the landscape of Dunn.

*For thousands of years, Native Americans
Loved this land just as we
For they let it refresh
Rather than alter its beauty.*

*Land protection as a national heritage
Began with Lincoln at Yosemite,
Then Teddy Roosevelt and some thereafter.
Our town has similar stewards, past and present.*

*Preservation is still uncommon
As many prefer change for tomorrows
On land they claim on the borrow.*

*So let us all commit to continue
The quiet battle started at this corner
So we may walk some cherished ground
In grateful peace.*

*This land, the water, the wildlife has a welcome cry
Let us forever listen and remember why.*

This poem was written by John Herm, the Town of Dunn's Poet Laureate, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Town's farmland preservation program this year.

BEN JONES

Groundswell Conservancy Appreciation Party

Thursday, December 7th

4:30 – 6:30 pm

Lussier Family Heritage Center

3101 Lake Farm Road, Madison

Join us in celebrating all you have made possible this year in land protection! Your support is making a difference in the local landscape and we want to show our appreciation. Stop by any time between 4:30 and 6:30 pm and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments.

RSVP online at groundswellwisconsin.org/appreciationparty or call (608) 258-9797. ■



GROUNDSWELL
CONSERVANCY

We protect special places, forever.
Our vision is a world filled with green
places where communities thrive.



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BY THE NUMBERS

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

Your individual gift makes a big difference!

789 Members

1,019 Acres Protected Forever

\$2,437,900 Value of Land Permanently Protected

Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 Groundswell Conservancy received \$478,674 for operations and spent \$561,781 for operations. The difference of \$83,107 came from reserve funds that support the operations of Groundswell Conservancy. In addition, Groundswell Conservancy and our Town of Dunn partner received \$1,795,070 in public funds from U.S.D.A. Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Dane County Conservation Fund, North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Town of Dunn, and Rock County PACE Program to permanently protect land.

Income for Operations

Contributions from individuals	\$307,841	64%
Restricted gifts	\$58,100	12%
Consulting fees, rental income, and other	\$90,683	19%
Endowment distributions from Madison Community Foundation		5%
Easement Enforcement Endowment	\$9,257	
Operations Endowment	\$4,768	
Bob and Anne Bolz Gift Endowment	\$8,025	

Total operating income	\$478,674	100%
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Total capital income for land acquisition	\$1,795,070
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Expenses for Operations

Program services	\$386,819	69%
Management and general	\$75,737	13%
Fundraising	\$99,225	18%

Total operating expenses	\$561,781	100%
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As of June 30, 2017 Groundswell Conservancy had total assets of \$6,812,833 and liabilities of \$38,698. Most of our assets (\$5,375,100) are our nature preserves.

To view the details of our financial health, please see our financial reports posted at www.guidestar.org. The 2016-2017 report should be posted by December 2017. You can also view our federal tax returns at our website under the tab "ways to give" / "donate with confidence."



CHRISTINE LEIGH PHOTOGRAPHY



BEN JONES



THANK YOU for your investment in *conservation where you live*

Whether you gave a gift to Groundswell for the first time this year or have been a long-time supporter, and whether your support came in the form of dollars, time, or expertise, we THANK YOU. All donors listed on the following pages gave to Groundswell during the last fiscal year, July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. Each and every gift, no matter the size, helps protect our special places, forever.

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“Wedding gifts are a mixed bag but a gift to help conserve the environment is always good.” Tina Pacente and Charlie Sanders, raised over \$7,000 for Groundswell by asking wedding guests to give a donation in lieu of gifts.

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¹ Event Sponsor ² Prairie Partner Sponsor ³ Part or all of gift is to help uphold our conservation easements

⁴ Gift to Groundswell endowment at Madison Community Foundation



“Nothing calms the soul nor enlightens the mind more than an exploration through the woods, wetlands, creeks, or prairie. These experiences through the eyes of our child have strengthened our commitment to doing our part to ensure these special places are there for future generations of children. People are more inclined to protect wild places when they have the opportunity to connect personally. Groundswell’s leadership, organization, creativity, and commitment to protecting wild places stands out as an organization we choose to support beyond our time here on earth.” Nicole and Paul Staskowski, Legacy Circle Members

\$100 - \$249 (continued)

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Educational outing with
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made possible by Madison
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Julie Shiner-Bazan & Bernard Bazan
Janet Silbernagel
Bob & Sue Simon
Meg Skinner

“Preserving and enhancing the environment is one of MCF’s five focus areas—and Groundswell is at the forefront of environmental progress in the Dane County Region. They protect important lands and connect people to the land through hands-on activities. When we think about the Madison area we often think about the natural landscape. It’s integral to our image of this special place that we all call ‘home.’ We’re so fortunate to have Groundswell stewarding this landscape for us.” Bob Sorge, Madison Community Foundation

¹ Event Sponsor ² Prairie Partner Sponsor ³ Part or all of gift is to help uphold our conservation easements

⁴ Gift to Groundswell endowment at Madison Community Foundation

Up to \$99 (continued)

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 Anita Temple
 Caryl & Bob Terrell
 Zong Thao
 William Thomas
 Thom & Deborah Thomassen
 Janice Thompson
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 Gary Topper
 Shelly Torkelson & Matt Neff
 Kathryn Trudell & Lorne Hillier
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 Thomas Ziegelhoffer
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 Carol Ziesemer
 Rich & Andrea Zietko
 Nancy Zucker & Michael Burns

Land Steward Member

(Significant restricted gift for land acquisition)
 Sue Goldwomon and Arlene Zaucha

Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory of Lyman Anderson
 Jerry Derr

In Honor of Norman Anderson
 Eva, Henry, Ian, Ellen and
 Eric Anderson
 Ruth & Thomas Kent

In Memory of Victor Bakhtin
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In Memory of Don Grubb
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 Jamie & Josef Mueller

In Honor of the Knoche family
 Anonymous

In Honor of Tom Krauskopf
 Sara Krauskopf

In Memory of Noreen Lucey
 Sheila Lucey-Muehlenbruch
 George Lucey

THANK YOU Volunteers

Thank you to the dedicated volunteers, who devote many hours to serve on our board and committees, help with field trips, assist in the office, manage our lands, and more.

Ron Albrecht
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In Honor of Barack & Michelle Obama
Gary Coenen

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Stinson Stroup

In Memory of Martha Sundal
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Mary Clemens
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In Memory of Kenneth Wood
Levi & Janet Wood

In Honor of Camille Zanoni
Larry Zanoni & Cathy Cram

In Kind Contributions

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The Shoe Box
Silly Yak Bakery
William Van Haren
Vandewalle & Associates, Inc.
Frank & Mariana Weinhold
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Gifts & Partial Gifts of Land & Easements

Telle Zoller
Sayre Joint Farm LLC

Grants for Land Acquisition

Dane County Conservation Fund
Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program
Natural Resources Conservation
Service—Agricultural Conservation
Easement Program
Rock County Purchase of Agricultural
Conservation Easements Program
US Fish & Wildlife Service—
North American Wetlands
Conservation Act

Gifts for Land Acquisition

John C. Bock Foundation
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The Vogel Foundation
Gary Werner and Melanie Lord
Levi and Janet Wood

In preparing this report, we made every effort to ensure that it is accurate and complete. If there is an omission or error, please accept our apologies and contact Sara Graves at (608) 258-9797 or sara@groundswellwisconsin.org so we can correct our records.



NATHAN ORTIZ

Legacy Circle

Make a lasting difference as a Legacy Circle member! There is no greater legacy that one can leave than permanently protected land. Learn about your options for adding Groundswell to your estate plans, including bequests, IRA or life insurance designations, and more: Visit groundswellwisconsin.org/legacy or contact Heidi Habeger at (608) 258-9797 or heidi@groundswellwisconsin.org.

Supporters who have included Groundswell in their estate plans

Johanna Alex
Norman & Peggy Anderson
Patricia Arndorfer
Jodi Bruss-Sherman & Jack Sherman
Dana & Pat Chabot
Larry Hartzke
Pam & Craig Heilman
Douglas & Marjorie King
Joanna Kramer Fanney
Beth Kubly

Bill Lunney & Judie Pfeifer
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Pat & Pete Sammataro
Nicole & Paul Staskowski
Mary Trewartha
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Carla Wright

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You have protected forever **11,207 acres** of cherished local land.



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Places worth knowing

Whether you're looking for serenity or adventure, you won't want to miss the upcoming outdoor experiences with Groundswell Conservancy. These field trips are free but space is limited and registration is required. Visit us at groundswellwisconsin.org to register. See you outside.



WHITNEY HARDY

Patrick Marsh Snowshoe and Bonfire

Saturday, January 27, 2018
3:30 - 5:30 pm

A roaring bonfire, roasted marshmallows and warm refreshments await you at our second annual snowshoe and bonfire at Patrick Marsh Wildlife Area. Traverse 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 meet other Groundswell Conservancy supporters who share your commitment to conservation where you live. ■



ANGIE BANKS

Lodi Marsh Snowshoe

Saturday, February 3, 2018
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. Bring the family for an adventure that will take you on and off the Ice Age Trail, through varied terrain with a few hills. If there is little or no snow cover, the event will be a hike instead of a snowshoe. ■