

# Newsletter

Dane County  
Natural Heritage Foundation

Fall 1986

## Waubesa Uplands Preserved

By Jean Meanwell

It is autumn in the Waubesa Wetlands and in the uplands owned by Dr. Alice Watts. The sandhill cranes that nested here, the resident blue heron on the pond, and the willow flycatcher will soon be leaving on their annual migration.

Yet, they will be able to return next spring, and for successive springs to come, to a land still covered with marsh marigolds, wild iris, and jacks-in-the-pulpit. An arrangement worked out between Dr. Watts and Bill O'Connor of the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation ensures that these vital uplands will be preserved from development.

### Conservation Easement Signed

Recently, Dr. Watts signed a deed of conservation easement to the Foundation and the American Farmland Trust, located in Washington, D.C. The DCNHF will be responsible for administering and enforcing the easement. As an additional part of this agreement, she donated two adjoining plots to The Nature Conservancy.

This easement covers eight acres of prairie restoration, five acres of woodlands, a 1500-tree walnut grove, and a five-acre pine plantation. The land tract also includes 180 acres of prime farmland which must perpetually remain as farmland or else revert to meadows. It cannot be developed.

### A Family Project

This land conservation is due not only to the perseverance of Dr. Watts, but also to the enthu-



*Dr. Alice Watts is joined by DCNHF President Norman C. Anderson (right) and AFT President Ralph Grossi at the dedication of the Watts Farms Conservation Easement.*

siasm of her naturalist sister, Mary Sondern and her husband, Clarence. They have been assisted in the implementation of their ideas by their resident land manager, Donald Sands. Together they planned and planted the prairie restoration and the spring recharge area.

The prairie restoration is dotted with big bluestem and evening primrose among the Canadian rye and is brightened with colorful patches of coneflowers and black-eyed Susans.

The spring recharge area is planted with Scotch, Norway, and white pines in addition to the original woodlands. This buffer zone protects the clarity of the three springs behind Dr. Watts' house. The flow from these springs is estimated to be at the rate of 300 gallons a minute—a constant source of cold, pure water for the wetlands below.

Also on this upland property is Murphy's Creek which flows from the adjacent Barney's Swamp to the Waubesa Wetlands. At the

suggestion of neighbor Cal DeWitt, a 50-foot natural buffer zone will be preserved on each side of the creek which is a natural flyway for the many birds in the area.

### Preserving a Valuable Resource

The Waubesa Wetlands below Dr. Watts' land is a former glacial bay of the lake itself. It is considered to be the best wetlands area in the southern counties of Wisconsin. Home to a great variety of plants, birds, and animals, it contains such rarities as Blanding's turtles and lesser fringed gentian. Evidence of long ago Native American campsites on the edges have been found by Mr. Sands. He has an extensive collection of arrowheads and spear projectile points he has located in the area—some dating as far back as 8000 years.

Preserving these valuable wetlands means preserving the uplands as well. Dr. Watts and her family have understood that. It is because of their concern that Dane County has this heritage preserved for future generations. □

preserving a splash of green



## From the President

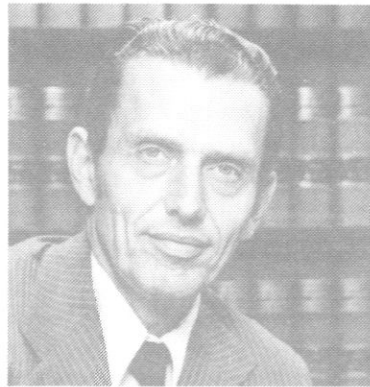
Dear Friends:

One evening this past summer, I had the pleasure of attending a board of directors meeting of the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation on the shore of Lake Mendota, watching an orange sky gradually change to purple. Board members were there to hear how Wisconsin Conservation Corps personnel, under the direction of University staff, might be able to correct erosion problems in Wally Bauman Woods.

That piece of land, also known as the Lower Eagle Heights Woods, has been a pathway for silt and debris into Mendota for decades. But one of the responsibilities that comes with conserving land is the ongoing stewardship of that property. And Heritage Foundation members considered it their job to address a problem that predated our involvement by many years.

It's that kind of dedication to wise use of land and protection of our natural heritage that makes people sit up and take notice of this organization.

One group that noticed us recently is the American Farmland Trust, a national land conservation organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C. AFT helped us with a major project designed to protect a spectacular wetland (see page 1), and then invited us to work with them on a major new effort of theirs in the Midwest.



All of which is to say that the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation is making the kind of waves it was created to make. I'm proud to be a part of it, and I hope you are, too. But please remember that we need all the help we can get.

One way you can help is by renewing your membership promptly. You'll find a convenient way in this newsletter. You'll also notice that several families have memorialized loved ones with a contribution to the Foundation. These and other contributions are always appreciated. But don't hesitate to call us about a parcel of land you think has conservation potential, or about someone who would like to receive information about our work.

With best wishes,

Norman C. Anderson  
President

## Never a Bet

By William P. O'Connor

The private conservation movement has expanded dramatically since the 1960s. Today more than 500 "land trusts" or "conservancies" like the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation focus private action on the preservation of natural areas and other conservation land resources.

The main force driving this new conservation movement is the commitment of citizens to the long-term values of their communities. But, like other nonprofit activities, private land conservation is encouraged by federal and state incentives, including the income tax deductions for conservation contributions.

It's no surprise that the new tax bill—the most sweeping revision (reform? simplification?) since the first federal tax on income was imposed in 1913—will change some of the incentives and values affecting conservation related gifts.

If you've considered supporting private conservation by joining a conservation group as a member or making a donation of land, a conservation easement, cash, stock or other property, it is worth considering the timing of your donation. Most of the new provisions take effect for gifts made beginning January 1, 1987.

Here are some highlights:

- **Reduced Rates:** Rates will be lowered from a range of 11% to 50% to a simpler two-rate system of 15% to 28%. (Another 5% is levied on some higher income taxpayers.) The higher rates in effect this year make 1986 donations advantageous for practically all of us.
- **Non-itemizer Deduction:** In 1981, charitable donations were



Jean Meanwell, Editor

*The Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation was organized in 1983 to preserve, maintain, and enhance land areas contributing significantly to the beauty, open space, and ecological, scenic, historic, and archeological integrity of the lands and water of Dane County, Wisconsin, and the surrounding region.*

Contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law. For information about membership or conservation of land, contact Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation, Suite 200, Churchill Building, 16 North Carroll Street, Madison, WI 53703, (608) 258-9797.

**Conservation Director**  
William P. O'Connor

### Board of Directors

Norman Anderson, *President*  
Kenneth S. Opin, *Operations Vice-President*  
Nancy Heiden, *Conservation Vice-President*  
David W. Chandler, *Treasurer*  
William G. Lunney, *Secretary*  
Tom Bolger  
Robert M. Bolz  
Nan Cheney  
Cal DeWitt  
Sherman G. Geib  
Cliff Germain  
Joseph J. Hickey  
Harvey Jacobs  
Bea Kabler  
Howard Mead  
Jean Meanwell  
Sylvia Peterson  
Horace K. Tenney III  
Mary Trewartha  
James Wimmer

## ter Time

made deductible by those who use the standard deduction. Beginning next year, *donations will no longer be deductible*, except by those who itemize. It is worth renewing your membership before year's end.

- **Gifts of Appreciated Property:** Gifts of land, conservation easements or other property which has increased in value remain deductible at the fair market value of the property. But a portion may be subject to "alternative minimum tax" for some taxpayers.

The descriptions above are necessarily sketchy. If you are considering support for the Foundation, feel free to call for additional information on conservation donation opportunities. □

### THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE



## Exhibit, Catalog Worth Sharing

The Foundation recently produced a beautiful and informative booklet to guide visitors through the exhibit "The Changing Landscape" currently on display at the Museum of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

The booklet, *The Changing Landscape*, is worth owning in its own right. Like the exhibit, the text highlights changing attitudes toward land held by Dane County residents over the years, including the urge to conquest, the glorification of the pastoral scene, nature for recreation and the need for conservation.

A special section of the booklet describes the private conservancy

techniques available for use by the Foundation to conserve precious parcels.

Illustrations include several Jim Young photographs of sites preserved by the Foundation which were specially commissioned for the exhibit as well as reproductions of Historical Society images on display.

The booklet is on sale for \$3.00 at the Museum (on the State Street corner of the Capitol Square) where the exhibit remains on display through November 23rd. It is provided free of charge to new members.

## Especially For Members

### Directors at Work

The Foundation Directors recently:

- Accepted an unrestricted gift of \$60,000 from an anonymous donor;
- Authorized acceptance of a gift of land in Sauk County to be used for trade purposes;
- Appointed William P. O'Connor Conservation Director;
- Discussed the possibility of a joint project with American Farmland Trust aimed at conserving farmland and reducing the cultivation of marginally productive farmland;
- Appointed Director Cal Dewitt to serve as land steward for the Watts property.

### Can You Help?

Call the Foundation office, 258-9797, if you would like to make our goals a reality. We need people to help on committees (membership, land stewardship, public relations, newsletter) as well as occasional help with mailings.

### Typewriter Needed

If you've gotten yourself computerized and have an idle typewriter, the Foundation office will put it to good use. Call 258-9797.

### DCNHF Memorials

Contributions to the Memorial Fund have been made in honor of: John R. and Adelaide Yost; June, the sister of Geri and Connie Malak.

Please consider the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation when making your memorial bequests.

### Membership Reminder

Many of you will be wanting to renew your membership soon. Though we will be mailing out reminder notices, you could help us save money by using the enclosed envelope. When you renew you may choose as a special gift either the elegant black and sepia poster or the charming color booklet, both commemorating *The Changing Landscape*, the inaugural exhibit of the State Historical Society Museum. Please indicate your choice on the enclosed renewal envelope. □



## Charter Members

American of Madison  
 Andy Amir-Fazli  
 John W. Anderegg  
 Ernest & Betty Lu Anderson  
 Norman C. Anderson  
 Norman & Kathy Arendt  
 Mary E. Bakken  
 Edith Bangham  
 The Norman Bassett Foundation  
 George Baxtrum  
 Richard & Elizabeth Bardwell  
 Eleanor Barschall  
 Mrs. Mary Ellen Ela  
 Phyllis Bergman  
 Gloria B. Berman  
 Donald J. Beyer  
 Doug Bingenheimer  
 Herbert & Edna Bird  
 Lloyd & JoAnn Bitzer  
 Liesl M. Blockstein  
 Julia H. Bogholt  
 John A. Bolz  
 Robert M. Bolz  
 Eugenie Mayer Bolz Family Foundation  
 David E. Bonner  
 Kenneth J. Boss  
 Kenneth R. Bowling  
 Joseph and Katherine Bradley  
 Florence B. Branch  
 David Breckenfelder  
 Sue E. Bridson  
 The Brittingham Fund  
 Kenneth M. Bro & Becky J. Brown  
 Dr. & Mrs. Wm. T. Brodhead  
 Marc Brody  
 Celia M. Brooks  
 Paul Bruening  
 Ervin Bruner  
 Elizabeth Burr  
 Lynne S. Bush  
 Robert & Eva Wright Buzdecky  
 Ingeborg Gubler Casey  
 Nan and David Cheney  
 David and Sally Orth Chandler  
 Dr. Thomas Choate  
 Andy Clark  
 Lorch B. Clevon  
 Louise S. Coleman  
 Reed Coleman  
 Marvin Conney  
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles D. Cornwell  
 Daniel G. Cottam  
 Mr. Thomas A. Cottingham  
 Marion P. Crownhart  
 Larry L. Cummings  
 Diane Derouen & Glenn Chambliss  
 David W. Chandler  
 Sue E. & Gene L. Dewey  
 Helen A. Dickie  
 Dr. C. A. Doehliert  
 Alan F. Donsing

Madeleine Doran  
 Mrs. Emily H. Earley  
 R. A. Eisfeldt & Marjorie  
 & Irvine Elliott  
 Frederick & Cheryl Ellsworth  
 Amy G. Epstein  
 Marshall and Joyce Erdman  
 Ellen Ericksen  
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard A. Erney  
 The Evjue Foundation  
 Glen G. Eye & Lanore Netzer-Eye  
 Ann R. Fagan  
 Dave Fallow  
 First Wisconsin National Bank of Madison  
 Wes & Ankie Foell  
 Jerry & Trudy Foy  
 Roy C. Franz Family  
 Mrs. Edith S. Frank  
 Walter A. Frautschi  
 General Casualty Company  
 Cliff Germain  
 Dr. B. H. & Gene F. Glover  
 Mrs. Dorothy Gosting  
 Roger & Carolyn Graff  
 Mrs. L. S. Greene  
 George Gurda  
 Dorothy Haines  
 Lucien C. Hanks  
 Dr. Samuel B. Harper  
 Henry & Virginia Hart  
 Lee & Yolanda Hayden  
 Dr. Jack & Nancy Heiden  
 Robert & Lorraine Heise  
 Louis H. Heitke  
 Richard Henderson  
 Mr. & Mrs. R. G. Herb  
 Jost & Elisabeth Hermand  
 Denise V. Herzberg  
 Dr. Joseph & Lola Hickey  
 Ruth Hokanson  
 Thomas H. Hopgood & Mary Gordon  
 A. Marion Hove  
 Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Howe  
 Susan Humdt-Bergan  
 Cary Hunkel  
 Mrs. W. M. Hutchison  
 Clare F. & Nancy Hutson  
 Hugh H. Ittis  
 Anne & Chuck Irish  
 Donald E. & Norma E. Jones  
 Paul Kaarakka & Jeanne Foster  
 Ken N. Kailing  
 Miss Marian A. Kerr  
 Stephen C. Kleene  
 Lynn & Joyce Knutson  
 Jean D. Dent  
 Elaine P. Koepf  
 Norma J. Kolthoff  
 Ruth J. Kramer  
 Jeffery T. Kuesel  
 David A. Langebartel  
 Dorothy S. Lentz  
 Claude E. Leroy

Carolyn W. Libby  
 Wes & Jane Licht  
 Jenny J. Lind  
 Jim Lorman & Anne Forbes  
 Patrick Luby  
 Henry S. Luffer, Jr.  
 William Lunney and Judy Plieffer  
 Sally Mackie  
 Madison Gas & Electric Company  
 Geraldine M. Malak  
 James Maluta  
 Carol S. Maroney  
 David W. & Linda L. Martin  
 Mark Martin  
 Gail Martinelli  
 Linda Marx  
 Edward G. Mason, Jr.  
 Priscilla Mather  
 Ronald Mattox  
 Oscar G. Mayer  
 Mable S. McCabe  
 R. J. & Mae McMahon  
 Frances E. McNow  
 Howard Mead  
 Jean & Walter Meanwell  
 Rose Meinholz  
 Dan & Julie Melton  
 Phyllis A. Metcalf  
 Frank & Gloria Meyers  
 Charles & Sally Miley  
 Bernard M. Morton  
 Mr. Eldon J. Mueller  
 Martha Rae Mueller  
 Mary Muelien  
 Norman P. Neal  
 George M. Neckerman  
 Mikkel M. Nelson  
 Robert S. Newbury & Nancy A. Sugden  
 Bruce & Judy Newton  
 Dorothy C. Nichols  
 Janet Pray O'Connor  
 Steven & Mary Jo O'Connor  
 William O'Connor  
 Stuart W. Olbrich  
 Norman & Darlene Olson  
 Ken Opin & Jan Silvers  
 Ilah Ostrum  
 Joe T. Parisi  
 Ross Patronskey  
 Wayne R. Pauly  
 Clara Penniman  
 Mrs. Susanne S. Perina  
 Lynn Persson  
 Harry & Sylvia Peterson  
 Rita B. Peterson  
 Margaret E. Pickart  
 Evan & Jane Pizer  
 Mr. & Mrs. James Potter  
 Carrel & Lloyd Pray  
 Mrs. Theron P. Pray  
 Richard & Lorraine Ranney  
 Elaine D. K. Rattunde  
 Clarence & Audrey R. Ready

Phyllis & Alex Reisdorf  
 Stella Revell  
 Walter & Jean Rideout  
 Margaret Hall Rieman  
 Mark Richter  
 Norman & Constance Risjord  
 Fred & Nancy Risser  
 R. M. Roden  
 A. V. Patricia Hunter Roedell  
 Judith L. Rose  
 Bernard Saley  
 Bette & Chuck Salmon  
 David B. Saunders  
 Roth S. Schleck  
 Rev. Charles Schluter  
 Charles L. & Ann H. Schmalbach  
 Hanst & Miriam Schneider  
 Esther E. Scott  
 Dr. & Mrs. L. J. Seward  
 Georgia M. Shambers  
 Jobelle A. Shands  
 Martin J. & Martha M. Shannon  
 Carl & Elizabeth Silverman  
 Dr. R. G. Sinaiko  
 Mr. & Mrs. Weber Smith  
 Art Springarn  
 Mary T. Sprinkle  
 Mrs. Harry Steenbock  
 Halberta Steensland  
 Judith Strasser & Stephen Ela  
 Anne Ames Strong  
 Daniel Strouse  
 Frederick C. & Betty H. Suhr  
 Millard & Barbara Susman  
 Mrs. Fannie Taylor  
 Dr. Horace Kent Tenney, III  
 Mrs. Jeanette W. Tenney  
 Miss Alice A. Thorngate  
 Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Threinen  
 Mark & Mary Trewartha  
 Sarita Trewartha  
 Michael Vahldieck  
 Margaret Van Alstyne  
 John & Margaret Van Gemert  
 Mike B. Van Sicken  
 Dorcas & Wayne Volk  
 Peg Wallace  
 Mr. & Mrs. James Watrous  
 Alice D. Watts, M.D.  
 Webcrafters—Frautschi Foundation  
 Gary Werner  
 Mr. & Mrs. J. J. Werner  
 Douglas G. White  
 Eugene Wilkening  
 Nash Williams  
 Michael D. Wolff  
 Mrs. George Young  
 Jennifer A. Younger  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Zimmerman  
 G. M. Zu-Rhein



Suite 200, Churchill Building  
 16 North Carroll Street  
 Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Non-Profit Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Permit No. 245  
 Madison, WI