



# Newsletter

Dane County  
Natural Heritage Foundation

Spring 1990

## State Stewardship Fund and County Conservation Fund Present Opportunity

This year, Wisconsin will embark on the largest conservation program in our state's history: the Stewardship Fund. The Stewardship Fund is a ten-year, \$250 million bonding program to preserve our state's natural heritage.

The Fund will spend \$25 million a year for the next decade to expand state parks, forests, and wildlife areas, protect wildlife habitat, preserve endangered resources, and provide recreational opportunity.

A landmark provision of this program makes grants available to non-profit conservation organizations like the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation (DCNHF) for land acquisition. The DCNHF strongly advocated for this program through the Private Conservation Action Coalition, and plans to take advantage of this opportunity to purchase and obtain easements on important environmental areas in Dane County.

The significance of this new initiative is increased by local legislation. Dane County has approved creation of a \$500,000 Conservation Fund

which also provides matching grants for local conservation efforts in 1990.

These complementary initiatives will make it possible for land to be purchased and protected at a substantial discount. Privately raised money could first be matched by the county, with that total then matched with state funds. The result would be that land could be purchased at up to a 75 percent discount.

The DCNHF is currently planning to launch an effort to raise private funds to leverage the state and local money. For every one dollar raised, up to three additional dollars will be available through matching grants. This is clearly a unique opportunity to make advances in the preservation of natural lands in Dane County.

The DCNHF congratulates the state and county for making this commitment to our natural heritage and the healthy future of our environment.

For further information or to make a contribution, contact the Foundation office at 258-9797 or use the enclosed envelope.

## Earth Day 1990

On April 22, 1990, over 20 million people walked, marched, attended speeches, and joined in demonstrating concern for the environment. The event was Earth Day.

Sunday, April 22, 1990, will mark the twenty years that have passed since the birth of the modern environmental movement. This celebration of Earth Day 1990 will launch a renewed effort to focus on the environment. Wisconsin and the people of Dane County, who have a proud conservation tradition, are already among those leading the way in this effort as the recently enacted Stewardship Fund and County Conservation Fund capture the spirit of Earth Day 1990.

In Dane County, Earth Day 1990 is an ideal opportunity to take stock of the many lakes, rivers, streams, marshes, prairies, forests in our area. And in doing this, consider making a commitment to this rich natural heritage through membership in the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation (DCNHF). The DCNHF has watched over and protected lands in Dane County since 1983. The new state and county funds for stewardship promise new opportunities to continue this mission.

Consider joining now. The brochure enclosed with this newsletter details the purpose and accomplishments of the Foundation. A return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.



*preserving a splash of green*

# Preserving The Future Through Recognizing The Past



Walter A. Frautschi (right), presenter Robert M. Bolz (left).

Preserving the Future, the 1989 Stewardship Awards, attracted more than 250 people to the Yahara Center on Sunday, October 29, 1989.

Co-sponsored by the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation (DCNHF) and Swan Lake Conservancy from Columbia County, the special event honored the efforts of four individuals for their contributions to land stewardship.

Special guest, Jill Eikenberry, star of TV's "L A Law" and a friend of the movement described the recipients of the awards "... as the people who throughout their lives have demonstrated a deep respect for the land and the quality of the environment." She added, "This may be the last

chance we have to turn things around."

Stewardship Awards were presented to the following:

- Dr. Watts - a retired physician, for her devotion to nurturing and protecting the land she owns in the Town of Dunn. Her land has a dramatic and beneficial environmental impact on Lake Waubesa.

- Nature artist Owen Gromme - for his significant contributions to conservation organizations over the years and for using his marvelous talent to inspire profound respect for nature.

- Walter Frautschi and his family - for their donations of land as part of the addition to the Madison School

Forest and their 1.5 million dollar contribution to the University of Wisconsin Foundation to enable the purchase of Second Point on Lake Mendota.

- Norman Anderson - for his pivotal role in progressive conservation efforts while serving in the Wisconsin Legislature and for his leadership as charter president of the DCNHF.

- The State of Wisconsin - for enactment of the Stewardship Fund, a land conservation program which has committed 250 million dollars over the next ten years to protect trails, natural areas, habitat restoration, streambanks, state parks, and forests.

Eikenberry, who graduated from Madison West High School, attended the event with her husband, actor Michael Tucker. She credited her mother Lora Collins for her deep environmental ethic.

The 1989 Stewardship Awards heightened public awareness of the need for private sector involvement in land conservation. The event also successfully raised funds from DCNHF members and the community at large. The enthusiastic support from both individuals and the business community indicates the depth and breadth developing in the environmental movement.

A particular note of appreciation is made to Tri-North Builders for their generous willingness to underwrite the costs of the event as well as to the long list of sponsors who contrib-



Dr. Alice D. Watts (left), presenter, Dr. Cal DeWitt (right).



uted \$100 or more. The proceeds from the event will be used to develop the foundation's capacity to more quickly to assist in preserving significant land parcels in Dane County.



## IN MEMORY OF BETTE SALMON

Our community lost one of the very special people with whom I had the privilege to be associated, Bette Salmon. Her commitment to improving and maintaining environmental quality in Dane County was unmatched.

Bette was instrumental in acquiring the E-Way and Lake Farm Park, and contributed to the community through public service and education. Her untiring work to preserve our county will be a legacy for many generations.

We at the DCNHF had a wonderful, if all too brief, opportunity to serve with Bette as she became a member of our board only a few months before her diagnosis with cancer. Her love and respect for nature will continue to be an inspiration for us all.

—William G. Lunney



## For Your Information... Conservation Easements

If the two words "conservation easement" leave you with only a vague understanding that this refers to something good that you should know more about, then this article is for you. We would like to fill you in on this very important conservation tool.

A conservation easement is a legal agreement a property owner makes to restrict the type and amount of development that may take place on his or her property. Each easement's restrictions are tailored to the particular property and to the interests of the individual owner.

To understand the easement concept, think of owning land as holding a bundle of rights. A landowner may sell or give away the whole bundle, or just one or two of those rights. These may include, for example, the right to construct buildings or to subdivide the land. To give away certain rights while retaining others, a property owner grants an easement to an appropriate third party.

The specific rights a property owner forgoes when granting a conservation easement are spelled out in each easement document. The owner and the prospective easement holder identify the rights and restrictions on use that are necessary to protect the property - what can and cannot be done to it. The owner then conveys the right to enforce those restrictions to a qualified conservation recipient, which could be a public agency or a land trust such as the DCNHF.

People grant conservation easements to protect their land or historic buildings from inappropriate development while retaining private ownership. By granting an easement in perpetuity, the owner may be assured that the resource values of his or her property will be protected indefinitely, no matter who the future

owners are. Granting an easement can also yield a tax savings.

Any property with significant conservation or historic preservation values can be protected by an easement. This includes forests, wetlands, farms, endangered species habitat, scenic areas, historic areas, and more.

As a land trust, the DCNHF is qualified to hold easements, and can lend expertise to landowners interested in this method of conservation. The Foundation currently holds several conservation easements affecting nearly 300 acres of land in the County. These include wetlands adjoining Lower Mud Lake, 250 acres of land protecting the South Waubesa Wetlands State Natural Area, and Lower Eagle Heights Woods.

Any questions? Contact the Foundation office during regular office hours.

- Excerpts from The Conservation Easement Handbook, published by the Trust for Public Land and the Land Trust Alliance.



## BOARD MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

### Harold Jordahl, Jr.

Bud is a professor of urban and regional planning with the UW-Madison. He graduated from high school in Findlay, Ohio and holds degrees in forestry from the University of Michigan and public administration from Harvard.

Bud has an active history in conservation, working for the Wisconsin Conservation Department, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the Upper Great Lakes Regional Commission and serving on the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board. Bud retired from the University in September of 1988. He was elected to the DCNHF Board of Directors in 1989 and serves on the Stewardship Committee.



### Richard Kalvelage

Rick received his M.S. in conservation and engineering from Purdue University. He has taught science and biology at the middle and high school levels, served as the Naturalist Educator for the DNR MacKenzie Center, and is currently the Environmental Education Coordinator for the Madison Metropolitan School District.

Rick was formerly president of the Columbia County Environmental Protection League, was one of the early board members of the Wisconsin Environmental Education Association, and is currently the president of the Walter E. Scott Chapter of the Izaak Walton League. He also teaches environmental science at Upper Iowa University and the Madison Area Business College.

### Richard A. Zillman

After earning degrees in marketing from the UW-Madison, Dick spent a year at Madison Kipp before joining

Towell, Inc. as Copywriter/Account Executive. He founded Zillman Advertising & Marketing, Inc. in 1977 where he is Marketing Director/Creative Director. His 15 years of experience in marketing and advertising includes work in all media for clients in retail, industry, insurance, healthcare, consumer services, packaged goods, politics, and the arts.

Dick serves on the boards of Downtown Madison, Inc. and Children's Theater of Madison and is vice-president of the board of the Madison Art Center. He is a member of the Madison Advertising Federation and Voyageurs and is on the steering committees of Madison's Winter Carnival and the Coalition for Madison's Future.

He is 42, married, and has a 21-year-old son, Chandler, a junior at the University of Minnesota, and a 6-year-old daughter, Hallie, a first grader at Edgewood. Both Dick and his wife Mary are life-long Madisonians.



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*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.*

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