



# DANE COUNTY NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Dedicated to the protection and preservation of natural areas in Dane County through conservation easements, land donations and education.

Summer 1995



Photo by Ruth Oppedahl

*Members of the Wilke Family at the prairie planting on May 20, 1995. L-R: Nancy Miller, Richard Wilke, Ruth Ann Wilke, Alex Wilke, Adam Wilke, Hazel Knudson, Rodney Wilke, Lorraine Wilke, and John Wilke.*



Photo by Ruth Oppedahl

*Alex & Adam Wilke watching tadpoles in Six Mile Creek. The creek runs through the Wilke Preserve. The 24 foot bridge was built by Mike Laier with lumber from Marling Lumber and steel plates prepared by Endres Manufacturing in Waunakee.*



Photo by Ruth Oppedahl

*Mike Slavney and daughters Natalia and Andrea scattering seed at the prairie planting. More than 30 people participated in the planting and broadcast seeds over about 12 acres of the Preserve.*

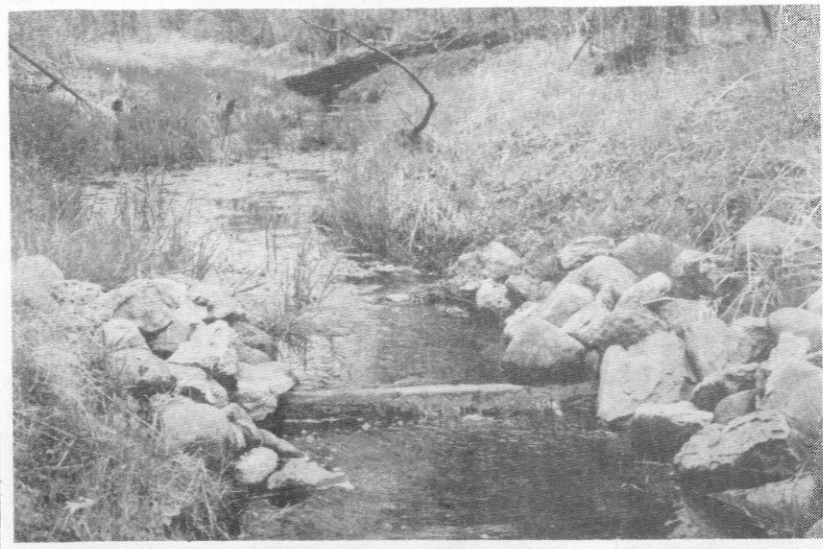
## Thank You to Sherri Laier

Sherri Laier just completed a one-year internship with the Wilke Preserve. Sherri is a dedicated naturalist and a gifted prairie seed collector. It is her work that enabled us to plant the Wilke Preserve. Thank you also to Mark Martin who supervised her internship.

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*Token Creek*

Photo by Jim Viney

## Token Creek -The Life and Times of the Early Settlers

*This is an excerpt from a manuscript written by Bernadine Smith and Bud Graff about the history of the Token Creek area.*

The name Token Creek is probably related to the Indian history. Three different origins have been recorded. One story is that the Winnebago would drop tobacco or some other "token" in the creek to guard against superstitions. Stories of effigy mounds in the area might have led to the name "Totem Creek". A third story links the name of the creek with a Native American chief named "Tokunee" which is seen on early maps of the area.

The Indians knew. Recorded history of Token Creek indicates that the Winnebago Indians frequently walked the trail from camping grounds at Koshkonong to what was then called Fort Winnebago (known today as Portage). The trail passed around the "Big Hill" at Token Creek. It is probable that not only the Winnebagos, but also the Sac and Fox tribes, may have used this trail in an earlier time. Settlers reported seeing as many as 500 - 1000 Native Americans walking this beaten trail. Today, older residents of Token Creek recall stories their grandparents told of meeting and trading with the Winnebagos at this site. Many clear and cold springs made for good hunting and trapping around Token Creek and the area was a traditional camping site.

When Europeans first arrived in the Token Creek area the majority of the land was grassland, the remainder was scattered timber on valley slopes consisting of white, black, red and burr oak, hickory and elm. The grasslands were kept open by fires set by the Native Americans to maintain camping sites and cultivation areas.

Since fire has been suppressed, much of the Token Creek area is now wooded. Prairie remnants are still found in marginal areas that were not cultivated or heavily grazed.

(For more information on the Token Creek Streambank Protection Program please call our office at 258-9797.)



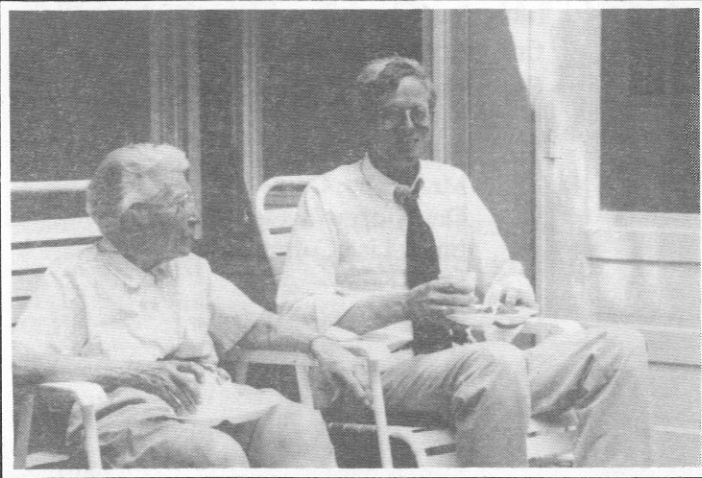
Photo by Jim Viney

*The "Big Hill" near the intersection of Hwy 19 & Portage Road. Wm. J. Park in his book Madison, Dane County and Surrounding Towns (1877) described the Big Hill as "... the lighthouse of the prairie, by which travelers were able to steer their course when crossing open country."*

### Thanks to BT Squared Environmental Firm

The Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation would like to extend heartfelt thanks to BT Squared environmental firm in Madison. BT Squared has provided technical advice to the Foundation and worked with Waunakee Foundation & Drilling and Mid-State Laboratories to provide services at-cost, or as a contribution to the Foundation. Thanks to Tom Bergamini and Thomas Culp for working with us.

## In Memory of Dr. Alice Watts



*Dr. Watts with DCNHF Conservation Director William O'Connor*

Dr. Alice D. Watts was a pioneer not only in her own field medicine which she entered in 1931, but also in land conservation in Dane County.

In 1986 the Foundation received a gift of a conservation easement on 226 acres of land owned by Dr. Watts. This easement area adjoins the Lower Lake Waubesa State Natural Area. The springs located in this area are an important water source for the Waubesa Wetlands and Lake Waubesa. The flow from these springs is estimated to be 300 gallons per minute - providing a constant source of cold, pure water for the wetlands below. The wetland is ranked among the best in the southern tier of Wisconsin counties.

Called a "living museum" of Wisconsin native plant communities, the Waubesa Wetlands are home to uncommon organisms such as the Blandings Turtle and the Lesser Fringed Gentian.

Evidence of long ago Native American campsites have been identified on the edges of the Waubesa Wetlands.

## Special Gifts

*If you would like to remember a special person or occasion, what better way to honor those who appreciate Dane County's natural beauty than by helping protect the natural areas that make this area so unique. A donation to the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation may protect a wetland, restore a prairie or preserve a woodland. We accept donations in honor of birthdays, graduations, marriages, anniversaries as well as donations in memory of loved ones. The honoree or family will be notified of your contribution, so please include a clearly written address.*

The Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation has received donations in honor of the following individuals:

### In honor of the birthdays of:

**Sheryl Baker**  
**Mary Cartusciello**  
**Darlene Duckert**  
**Kari Hoel**  
**Joyce E. Smith**  
**Beth Steinhauer**

*by Jane Licht*

### In honor of Hugh Iltis

*by Robert Kowal*

### In memory of:

**John Goggins**  
*by Harriet Riley  
and Jean Meanwell*

**Dr. JD Kabler**

*by Jean Meanwell*

**Bette Salmon**

*by Charles G. Salmon*

**Dr. Edward Sticha**

*by Walter & Jean Meanwell*

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## DANE COUNTY NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

### Membership Categories:

- ☐ \$20.00 *Individual*
- ☐ \$30.00 *Household*
- ☐ \$50.00 *Sustaining*
- ☐ \$100.00 *Donor*

### Please send me information on:

- ☐ Volunteering
- ☐ Token Creek Streambank Program
- ☐ How to make a gift through my will
- ☐ How to make a gift of real estate

### Send to:

DCNHF  
333 W Mifflin, Suite 106  
Madison, WI 53703-2557

608-258-9797

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law. Please make checks payable to Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation. Thank you!





*Lower Mud Lake*

Photo by Ruth Oppedahl

**Give a gift for Mud Lake!** Please consider joining in the effort to protect the natural beauty and wildlife habitat of Lower Mud Lake. This lake is located between Lake Waubesa and Lake Kegonsa in the chain of lakes along the Yahara River. This lake is one of the first spots of open water for migratory birds.

Contributions are needed and can be sent in c/o Lower Mud Lake, DCNHF, 333 W Mifflin, Suite 106, Madison, WI 53703. Thank you!

## Lower Mud Lake

Thank you to the following people who have contributed as of July 15 toward the first purchase in the Lower Mud Lake Resource Area by the Dane County Parks:

Anonymous  
 Marion F. Anderson  
 Mr. & Mrs. Cornwell  
 Dr. Andrew & Elsa Crummy  
 Jim & Lisa Cummings  
 Dave Fallow  
 Mr. & Mrs. Harrison  
 Rosemary & Lee Jones  
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 Harold & Teddy Kubly  
 Wes & Jane Licht  
 Rose Meinholz & Larry Hochman  
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 Gene Roark  
 Gail & Dan Shea  
 Donald E. Thompson  
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 Margaret Van Alstyne  
 Pat & Lawrence Watson  
 Robert & Marjorie Zimmerman  
 Dr. Gabriele Zu-Rhein

## DANE COUNTY NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

333 West Mifflin, Suite 106  
 Madison, Wisconsin 53703  
 608-258-9797

Address correction requested

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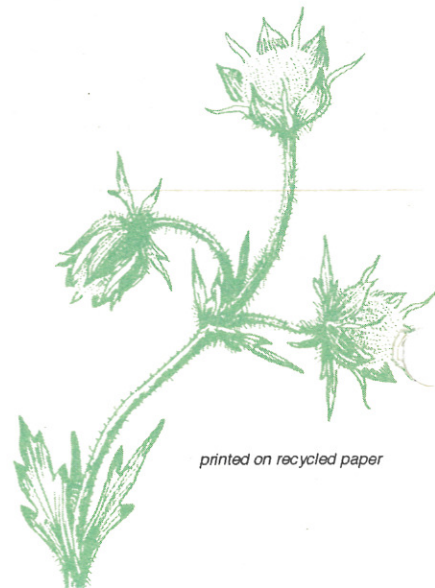
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