

DANE COUNTY NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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

Spring 1996

Foundation Receives Bequest from Dr. Alice Watts

During the month of March the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation was given 115 acres of land in the Town of Dunn as part of the estate of the late Alice D. Watts. The land contains a rich mix of habitats with approximately 35 acres of springs and wetland and 40 acres of woods and uplands. The remaining 40 acres are currently being farmed

For many years Dr. Watts was Milwaukee's only woman specialist in obstetrics and gynecology. Her life was continually guided by



Dr. Alice D. Watts receives a stewardship award in 1989 from DCNHF board member Cal DeWitt

Summer Water Events !!

Yahara Lakes Week: June 8th - 16th
Call Jon Exo at 267-0228
or Danielle Dresden at 266-2626

National Water Monitoring Conference August 3rd - 7th
Call Celeste Moen at 264-8878

Water Workshops: Sept. 24-25,
October 16-17
Call Mindy Habecker at 266-4106

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her love of open spaces and the natural world. She and her husband, Halvor Garos, spent weekends visiting the area south of Madison, and eventually came to purchase property in the Town of Dunn. The farm later became the site for her practice, and in 1968 they made this their permanent home.

In 1984 Dr. Watts retired from her practice and focused upon the preservation of her beloved springs and wetlands. Her quest led her in 1986 to place a conservation easement on her entire property, which is held by the American Farmland Trust and DCNHF. The easement ensures the protection of the open farmland and the preservation of the woods and wetlands in accordance with Dr. Watt's wishes.

The Foundation is grateful to Dr. Watts for this bequest and has established a committee to create a long-range plan for the property.

Protecting Your Land - Part 1

Ensuring that the conservation values of your property are protected is one of the most important ways individuals can contribute to the natural heritage of Dane County. This two-part article explains how land trusts can help private landowners to meet their conservation goals. Part two will be printed in an upcoming issue. If you would like to protect your land, while also retaining ownership of your property, land trusts can provide several options.

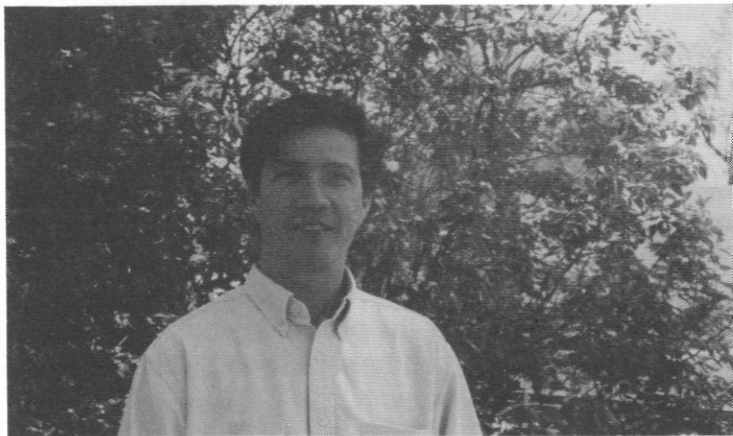
Conservation Easements - A conservation easement is a legal agreement between the landowner(s) and a land trust that permanently limits the uses of land in order to protect its conservation values. In donating a conservation easement to a land trust such as DCNHF, you permanently give up some rights associated with land, such as subdividing the property, while retaining others, such as growing crops. DCNHF's conservation director drafts the easement in consultation with the landowners, taking into account unique features of the property.

Conservation easements are written up in an agreement that outlines the rights of the landowner and the restrictions placed upon the property. These restrictions are conveyed with the title when the land is sold or passed on to heirs, and it is the job of the land trust to make sure the terms of the easement are followed.

An easement often requires an endowment to help defray the costs of monitoring the property for violations and the possibility of defending the easement against a legal challenge in the future. Other costs to the landowner can include having their own attorney review the easement document and having an appraisal done of the property. Conservation easements, though, can provide important tax benefits and relieve the burden of estate taxes that often make it difficult for heirs to keep the land intact. (continued on page 3)



In 1995 DCNHF accepted an easement on 77 acres near Blue Mounds



Jon Dore' will serve as a resource for the Token Creek watershed community

Token Creek Project Adds Staff

DCNHF is pleased to announce the addition of Jon Dore' to our staff as a land resource specialist for the Foundation's Token Creek project. The goal of the project, which is funded by a grant from the EPA, is to protect the water quality of Token Creek. Over the next year, Jon will gather information about the stream and specific land management practices that are important to the water quality of the area. In addition to compiling this information into a guide for watershed residents, Jon will assist the Foundation in pursuing streambank easements along the creek.

Prior to moving to Madison, Jon coordinated an extensive stream survey project in Mt. Hood National Forest in Oregon and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Sudan, Africa. The board and staff of the Foundation want to welcome Jon and are looking forward to an exciting and productive year.

Land Protection (cont.)

Registry Program - Including your property as part of a registry program is another way to protect your land while retaining ownership. Within a registry program the conservation values of a property are recognized and through a handshake agreement the landowner promises to protect the land. The agreement is informal and may be ended at any time.

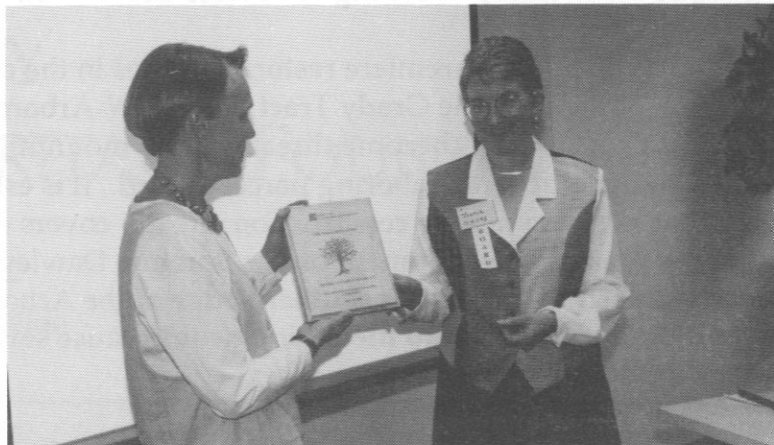
There are other choices for individuals who want to retain title to their land which involve other agencies. For more information on these and other conservation options feel free to call our office at 258-9797

- Excerpts from Conservation Options - A Landowners Guide published by the Land Trust Alliance, Washington D.C. 1993.

DCNHF Welcomes New Board Members

Jim Bricker - Jim serves as the administrator for the Town of Windsor. He has a strong background in planning and municipal government. Jim is an avid outdoors- man and enjoys extended canoe trips.

Carolyn Hapeman - Carolyn serves as a Certified Public Accountant at Suby, Von Haden & Associates. She is joining our board as Treasurer. Carolyn is a committed conservationist and a serious birder, seeking out unusual species here and across the country.



Rita Garczynski of American Family accepts a Stewardship Award for the company's conservation efforts from Jeanie Seiling at the DCNHF business reception

1996 Business Members

AE Business Solutions
Agrecol
AmericanFamily Insurance Group
Amtelco
Architectural Building Arts
Auto Glass Specialists Inc.
Badger Utility Inc.
Bank One, Madison
Benson Accounting
BT Squared
CUNA & Affiliates
Danny A. Tzakis & Associates
Envir. Foundation and Drilling
Eugenie Mayer Bolz Family Fndn.
Everen Securities, Inc.
First Business Bank
Firststar Bank
Fontana Sports Specialties, Inc.
Geib Realty
General Casualty Companies
Genetics Computer Group
Goodman's Jewelers
Hausman Insurance
Hooper Construction Corporation
John J. Frautschi Family Fndn.
Kayser Ford
Kennedy Hahn TV & Appliance
Klipstein Insurance Services, Inc.

Knothe & Bruce Architects, LLC
Lydia Lunnery Memorial Fndn.
Madison Dairy Produce Co.
Madison Gas & Electric Fndn.
Madison-Kipp Corporation
Marling Lumber Co.
Marshall Field's
McFarland State Bank
Michael, Best & Friedrich
National Mutual Benefit
PDQ Food Stores, Inc.
Rayovac Corporation
Sieling Enterprise
Simon & Voss Realtors
Stoughton Trailers, Inc.
Suby, Von Haden & Associates
The Capital Times and
Wisconsin State Journal
Thorstad Chevrolet
UW Provisions Company
Vandewalle & Associates
W. Jerome Frautschi Charitable Trust
Webcrafters, Inc.
Western Center Properties Inc.
Wheeler, Van Sickle, and Anderson
Williams Environmental Associates
Wisconsin Power & Light Foundation
Wisconsin Trails Magazine

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DANE COUNTY NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Membership Categories

- ☐ \$25.00 *Individual*
- ☐ \$35.00 *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
633 W Main St.
Madison, WI 53703-2557

608-258-9797

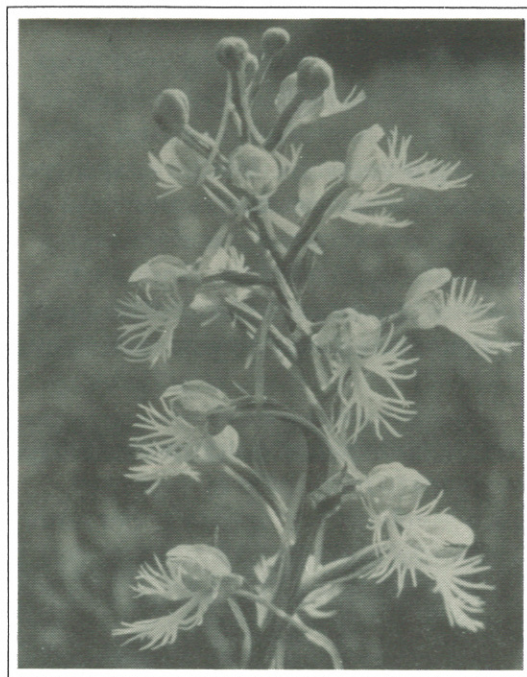
Name _____
Address _____
City/Zip _____

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

Unique Partnership Working to Protect Greene Prairie

Regarded as one of the premiere restoration sites in the country, Greene Prairie, on the Grady Tract of the UW-Arboretum south of the beltline, has become threatened by mounting pressure to develop a neighboring parcel of land. It is estimated that silt from nearby construction already covers one-fifth of the prairie. Development on the Sprague Dawley property, which lies along the southern edge of the Arboretum and drains directly into the prairie, would cause severe damage to the area's fragile ecology.

Recognizing this threat, DCNHF has facilitated the efforts of a consortium of groups committed to supporting the purchase of 50 acres of this land by Dane County Parks for a conservancy area. In addition to raising money for the outright purchase, the consortium has created plans to both address the current drainage problem and to reduce the damage if a partial development of the Sprague-Dawley property moves forward. Over the next few months the consortium is hoping this hard work will pay off with the preservation of the beauty and solitude found by visitors to Greene Prairie.



The Prairie White-fringed Orchid, a federally endangered species, can be found in Greene Prairie

Volunteers Needed !!! Help us organize photos, make a scrapbook, create displays or a brochure. The schedule is flexible according to your needs. If you are interested call Marcus at 258-9797.

DANE COUNTY NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

633 West Main Street

Madison, Wisconsin 53703-2633

608-258-9797

Address correction requested

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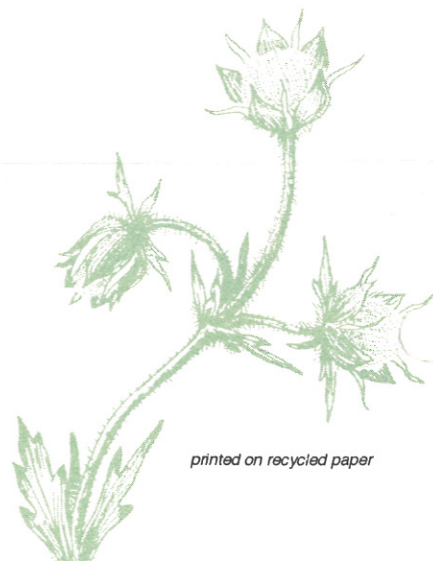
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Marcus Renner, *Land Protection Assistant*

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