



# 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 1996

## Taking Notice of Token Creek

*by Jon Dore'*

Token Creek is special place. The creek and its tributaries gather water from a 27 square mile area of rolling, green hills northwest of Sun Prairie. The creek may go unnoticed to many amid the quickening pace of modern life, but we believe it's time to slow down and take a closer look.

For centuries the creek provided people with pure water, abundant food and fur, and productive soils. The Winnebago Indians established a village and two major trails along the creek. The early settlers thrived, and by 1890 made the Town of Token Creek a primary settlement in the four lakes area. Even today, the pastoral beauty of the area attracts people to new suburbs developing along its banks.

Local residents have long known about Token Creek's pure, cold springs, but resource managers only recently learned that the output from one cluster of springs along the creek is nearly three times that of any other set of springs in Dane County.

One spring-fed tributary of Token Creek still supports a small trout population and a diverse community of aquatic insects. Some resource managers believe that if we can allow more spring water to flow directly into Token Creek, while controlling sediment input, it can become one of the premier trout streams in Southern Wisconsin.



*A spring-fed tributary that supports trout in the Token Creek watershed*

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There are imposing obstacles to that dream. As large tracts of farmland are converted to housing developments, new paving can decrease the rainwater trickling down to the groundwater supply. Increased runoff from streets and construction sites can create more erosion and carry more toxins into the creek.

*continued on page two*



## Protecting Your Land - Part 2

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. Part two of this article explains the conservation options land trusts can provide for landowners who intend to relinquish ownership of their property.

*Donating Your Land* - The most familiar means of land preservation is through donation of the title to a group such as a land trust. There are several ways to make such a donation. A landowner can choose to give land all at once or a piece at a time. Donations can also be made through a will. A landowner can retain the right to use or occupy a property that has been donated or can structure a donation to generate annual income.



*Cupplants on the 39-acre Wilke Preserve, donated to DCNHF in 1994.*

Landowners can make a donation to an organization, with the understanding the land will be resold with a conservation easement. This provides strict natural area protection for your land and is often easier for a land trust to manage. An appropriate strategy for protection can be worked out between the landowner and the land trust. Donations of property may have tax benefits which should be reviewed by the landowner's financial advisor.

*Selling Your Land* - Another option as a landowner is to sell your land to a conservation organization. In order to purchase a property at fair market value, a land trust usually must assemble a grant package of government land acquisition funds and private contributions. The property must meet the organizations guidelines to be eligible. Selling the property at less than market value (called a "bargain sale") can help make a property more affordable for an organization and may have tax benefits. Giving a land trust an "option to purchase" or a "right of first refusal" are ways land trusts can help meet your financial needs, while also protecting your land.

If you have questions about these or other conservation options, or would like to arrange for a staff member to visit your property, call our office at (608) 258-9797.

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## Token Creek *continued from page one*

Some local residents fear that eventually the area will be transformed into one continuous suburb of Madison and that coveted greenspaces along the waterway may be lost or blighted. Others believe growth can be a boost to the local economy and, if planned wisely, will have a positive impact on the community.

In either case, Token Creek deserves the attention of the community. It is time to gather together to address the question "How can we preserve the health and beauty of the creek in the midst of a rapidly changing landscape?" In the coming months, we will be contacting stakeholders groups and landowners about participating in a conference to discuss this important question. This will be a "community-owned and operated" conference with local co-sponsors and a conference design team made up of concerned citizens. Such full public involvement may be the best way to agree upon a community approach to the major changes facing the Token Creek watershed.

For more information on the conference, please call Jon Dore' or Ruth Oppedahl at 258-9797.

DANE COUNTY NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

*Remembering the Land*  
**1996 Stewardship Awards**

**Olbrich Gardens**  
**October 3, 1996**  
**5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

~ ~ ~

**Honoring 1996 Stewardship Award Recipients**

**Jane Licht**

*for lifelong conservation of natural areas at home  
and in our community*

**Bill Lunney**

*for service to parks and natural areas in Dane County  
and across Wisconsin*

**The Village of McFarland**

*for financial support for the first purchase  
in the Lower Mud Lake Resource Area*

**The Lake Waubesa Conservation Association**

*for conservation efforts in the area surrounding Lake Waubesa*

~ ~ ~

**Youth Award**

*to be presented to a young person or youth organization that has  
demonstrated an on-going commitment to land conservation  
or natural area restoration in Dane County*



~~~~~ ✂ ~~~~~

☐ Yes, I'd like to give at the sponsor level. My gift of \$100 or more admits two. Please list my name/corporation name in the 1996 Stewardship Program as:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes, I'm happy to attend. Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for me and my guests. My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed @ \$20/person. Please prepare name badges for the following person(s):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I cannot attend, but please accept my \$ \_\_\_\_\_ tax-deductible contribution.

Please RSVP by September 27 to: Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation

633 W Main St  
Madison, WI 53703  
258-9797

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State Historical Society of Wisconsin and Dane County Parks Department

## ***DISCOVERY LAKE & RIVER VOYAGE***

*Cruise and Paddle Into Dane County's Past  
A Benefit for the Dane County Heritage Center*

Saturday, October 5, 1996  
12:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Lake Farm County Park to Fish Camp County Park

*Native American Lore • Archaeology • Lakes Ecology  
Glacial Geology • E-Way Corridor • Indian Mounds • Ecosystems*

*Join inquisitive and energetic folks for this exclusive and rare expedition through time and nature. Renowned speakers will capture man's connection to Dane County's beautiful environment over 12,000 years. We'll pontoon and canoe through Lake Waubesa and Lower Mud Lake with frequent point-of-interest stops. The day's events will conclude at Fish Camp County Park with a catered dinner and displays of archaeological artifacts and the proposed Dane County Heritage Center.*

**\$75 Per Person**

(Your tax-deductible gift benefits the Dane County Heritage Center)

***Space Limited to 50! - Call Today***

Bob Birmingham, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 264-6495  
Jan Zimmermann, Heritage Center Project Coordinator, 221-8423

### **Event Sponsors:**

LoBecca Catering

Rutabaga

Carl's Paddlin'

Madison Fishing Expo

Lake Waubesa Conservation Association

Charles E. Brown Archaeological Society

Honored Speakers



## Charles "Chuck" Preston Cell Remembered 1940 - 1996

We note with sorrow the passing of Chuck Cell on July 29th. Chuck, a member of our board of directors, loved nature and at one time ran an organic vegetable business on his Storybrook Farm near Oregon. He was a scholar of China and on the faculty at UW in the 1970's. Later he received his law degree and set up a practice in Oregon. He and several partners developed senior housing in Oregon and he was active in Rotary Club. As you may recall, he received a Stewardship Award from the Foundation in 1994. Some of his remarks at that event are reprinted below.

### Gifts received in honor and memory of Chuck Cell

*by Donna, Chet and Ross Thomas*

*by Ruth Oppedahl*

*by Jean Meanwell*



*"...It was my privilege 20 years ago to settle on this land -- and to find a soil still alive; springs and a stream still unpolluted, and to bring together the challenge to be a steward of the land while at the same time producing food for human consumption using a nearly closed cycle of organic material, free from toxic chemicals.*

*My life has been deeply enriched by the land once traversed by Native Americans and first settled by the Storys of England. I have been both strengthened and humbled before this land and grateful for the chance to be its steward."*

## Remembering the Land 1996 Stewardship Awards October 3, 5:30 - 7:30 pm Olbrich Gardens

Each year the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation recognizes individuals and organizations that have been true stewards of the land. This year's program will highlight the experiences of individuals whose families have lived in Dane County for several generations.

*Awards will be presented this year to:*

**Jane Licht** - for restoring prairie and wetland habitat at her home, as well as dedicating years of work to natural area protection in Dane County.

**Bill Lunney** - for a lifelong commitment and service to parks and conservancy lands in Dane County and across the state.

**Village of McFarland** - for supporting the first purchase in the Lower Mud Lake Resource Area, a vital natural area for migratory birds and a rich cultural history site.

**Lake Waubesa Conservation Association** - for protecting Lake Waubesa and surrounding wetlands.

Also, a Youth Stewardship Award will be presented to a young person or youth group that has demonstrated an on-going commitment to land conservation or natural area restoration in Dane County.

*Chuck Cell, May 1994*



## Wilke Preserve Calendar of Events

**August 28, 6 - 7 pm**  
Prairie Folklore Walk

**September 15, 3 - 5 pm**  
Natural History Hike

**September 26, time TBA,**  
Lunar Eclipse Viewing w/  
Hot Apple Cider

**October 12, 12 - 4 pm**  
Seed Collecting

All events are sponsored by  
DCNHF and will meet at  
the Wilke Preserve parking  
area, one mile north of  
Waunakee on Hwy 113, just  
past Easy St. Call 258-9797.

*Right: Prairie restoration  
at the Wilke Preserve  
begins to bloom*

## DCNHF Establishes Easement Monitoring Program

One of the most important responsibilities a land trust has is making sure land under a conservation easement is protected over time. This summer DCNHF has begun a formal monitoring program of annual visits for its easement properties. This program will allow the Foundation to work with easement holders to chart how their land is changing and to answer questions about the legal protection the easement provides.



## DANE COUNTY NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

633 West Main Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703-2633  
608-258-9797

Address correction requested

Michael A. Slavney, *President*  
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