

DANE COUNTY NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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

Winter 1996



Foundation Accepts Blue Mounds Easement Restoration of 77 acres Permanently Protected

by Marcus Renner

This December Julie Hayward and Donn D'Alessio donated a conservation easement to DCNHF on their property of 77 acres in the Blue Mounds Township. The land is in a unique area of Dane County, untouched by glaciers with topography shaped by the work of rivers and streams. The property contains two of these streams, tributaries of German Valley Creek, and a high ridge with several distinctive sandstone and limestone outcroppings. The diverse topography once encouraged a range of ecologi-

cal communities, including oak savanna, wetland, and several types of prairie. Brian Bader, a local ecologist, has now developed a plan for Julie and Donn to restore these areas to their natural state.

Before being purchased by Julie and Donn in 1994, the property had been surveyed as two separate parcels, one with a proposed hilltop home site and a driveway through a sensitive wetland area. Intermittent farming, and most recently its use as a goat dairy farm, had left most of the land undeveloped but had degraded certain areas. Immediately recognizing the value of the property as a natural site, Julie and Donn began restoring sections of native oak savanna and woodland. This past spring their first annual burn was conducted by Prairie Enthusiasts volunteers to encourage the regrowth of native vegetation. In the months since, as part of their restoration activities, Donn has spent countless hours removing exotic species from the understory.

The easement given to DCNHF emerged from Julie and Donn's long-time attachment to the natural landscape, which was nourished for Julie as a volunteer with the UW-Arboretum and The Nature Conservancy. The easement will help preserve Julie and Donn's restoration efforts for generations to come. It will prevent subdivision of the land, which is rapidly engulfing neighboring areas, and will ensure habitat for many species of wildlife, which are already returning to this valley refuge.

Inside

Token Creek History Part 3	p2
News on Stewardship Awards . . .	p3
Gifts in Honor and Memory	p5
Wilke Preserve Update.	p6

Token Creek

The Life and Times of the Early Settlers - Part 3

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

The women of the community were capable, hard working wives and mothers. Household chores cycled with the seasons. When the garden produce was harvested it was canned in glass jars. When the cows or pigs were butchered it was time to can meat. There were no home freezers. In the 1950's a frozen food locker could be rented in Sun Prairie at the "Locker Plant".

It would have been unheard of, for these women to go to town for fun when it was time for work canning, washing and ironing, cooking, cleaning, and caring for the needs of the husband and children. It was this generation of women who faced tremendous changes in lifestyles.

The men of this time were also hard working, family men. In the spring the crops were planted. Summer-time brought the tasks of cultivating crops and putting up hay. In the fall, the farmers shared equipment and helped each other fill their silos with corn silage.

Most farmers also had Holstein cows. Milking was done by hand and later with the help of automatic milking machines. Farm wives scrubbed the dairy equipment daily in case the milk inspector appeared. Infractions could cause milk from that farm to be refused. Some farmers carried their own milk cans to the cheese factory which had been built in the Token Creek area in 1911. It was located at the intersection of Portage Road and Rattman Road and operated until November 17, 1956.



A northern tributary of Token Creek

For more information about the Token Creek Streambank Easement program, call DCNHF at 258-9797

Thank You to Outgoing Board Members

We appreciate the hard work and contributions of the following board members who are completing their term of service to the Foundation:

Rick Kalvelage - 6 years. Rick served on the Stewardship committee and worked in the early stages of the Token Creek project. We appreciate his good humor and natural history knowledge.

Bruce Kittle - 3 years. Bruce co-chaired both the 10th anniversary kick-off and the first Token Creek Watershed Festival. We appreciate Bruce's personal commitment to the Foundation and his many talents.

Jane Licht - 5 years. Jane was active on the PR/Development committee for many years, but we especially value her leadership of the Stewardship committee. Among her many contributions to the Foundation, she developed project selection criteria, conducted negotiations with landowners and spoke to civic groups on behalf of DCNHF. We appreciate Jane's long-term dedication to the Foundation and the many hours she spent with us. We wish her continued good luck in her public service as Dane County's Register of Deeds.

Carl Schultz - 3 years. Carl did a superb job as treasurer of DCNHF. He computerized our accounting system and was active in the many events sponsored by the Foundation. Carl is a managing a new branch office of Suby Von Haden & Associates in the Milwaukee area. We appreciate his financial acumen and the high value he places on our natural heritage.

Kathy Parks Yoast - 3 years. Kathy was active on the PR/Development committee and chaired the second Token Creek Festival. We appreciate her creative ideas and knowledge of public relations.

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.

1995 Stewardship Awards

Living the Land Ethic

The 1995 Stewardship Awards program held November 2, was a wonderful evening celebrating the lives and the work of several people who embody the spirit of Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic.

We heard the words of Aldo Leopold, read by his daughter, and also the words of August Derleth and George Vukelich. Their writing reflected on the season and the beauty of Wisconsin, their writing challenged us to contemplate the natural world, and our role as caretakers.

This year's awardees truly reflected this sense of caring for the land. We heard from Mark and Sue Martin who have dedicated their lives to restoring native prairie and sharing this with youth. We were inspired Emily Earley, who works locally and worldwide to create nature preserve. Ken LePine, Director of the Dane County Parks Department, noted the partnerships with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the County, and the City of Middleton, that made the purchase for the Friedrich property possible. Mayor Dan Ramsey of Middleton shared his vision for the parks and openspace for Middleton. Finally, we were charmed by young Girl Scouts who received an award for their wildflower seed collecting for our county parks.



Nina Leopold Bradley reading from her father's book,
A Sand County Almanac

Papa Hambone Tribute

At the Stewardship Awards event, we were joined by the family and friends of George Vukelich to pay tribute to his life and works on behalf of Mother Nature. George was an outspoken advocate for the environment through his two volumes of *North Country Notebook*, and his radio program on Wisconsin Public Radio, and weekly column in the *Isthmus*. He instilled in many people a great love for Wisconsin's lakes, rivers forests and wildlife.

Though his voice is stilled, his words continue to echo from the hills and valleys of Wisconsin:

"Did you know this north country in the piney-winey summer days before chainsaws, when you could get intoxicated on the smell of hemlock in the sun-warmed air?

Did you know this north country in the winter before snowmobiles, when the only



tracks in the snow were made by the Four-Footed Ones looking for food and the Two-Footed Ones looking for the outhouse?

Did you know this north country before there were all-terrain vehicles and dune buggies? Before jet planes in the sky and jet-skis in the water? Before gasoline-powered cars, trucks, motor homes, motorcycles, motor scooters and motorized ice augers?

Did you know this north country, this Old Wisconsin, without noise? Did you know it when it was as silent as a church, and the only sound for miles around came from little chickadees swinging on the pine branches like tiny tinkling bells?

If you did, you are blessed."

George Vukelich (1927-1995)

Excerpt taken with permission from, *Wisconsin's Rustic Roads*, published by Lost River Press. 1995. For more information call 1-800-366-3091

Many Deserve Thanks for Memorable Evening

Speakers: Mark Lefebvre
Nina Leopold Bradley
Bud Jordahl
Karl Schmidt

Thank You to the Following for being Major Corporate Underwriters of the Awards Event:

First Business Bank
PDQ Food Stores, Inc.
UW Provision Company
Western Center Properties, Inc.
Mid-Plains Telephone Company



Emily H. Earley at the 1995 Stewardship Awards



L-R: Sherri Laier, Lynn Hanson, Sue Foote Martin, Mark Martin, Jeff Nania



Black Hawk Council Girl Scout receiving the Youth Stewardship Award

Thank you to Awards Sponsors

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Stuart C. Utley & Barbara Schuster
Vandewalle & Associates
Wheeler, Van Sickle, and Anderson
Williams Environmental Associates
Wisconsin State Journal/The Capital Times
Wisconsin Trails Magazine
Janis and Scott Zimmermann



Big Bluestem

In appreciation of the support the Foundation has received from the business community, DCNHF would like to recognize its 1995 business members. We invite our members to continue their support of our conservation efforts within Dane county in 1996.

1995 Business Members

AE Business Solutions	Knothe & Bruce Architects, LLC
Agrecol	Lydia Lunnery Memorial Fndn.
American Family Insurance Group	Madison Dairy Produce Co. *
Amtelco	Madison Gas & Electric Fndn.
Architectural Building Arts *	Madison-Kipp Corporation
Am. TV & Appliance of Madsn. Inc	Marling Lumber *
Auto Glass Specialists Inc.	Marshall Erdman & Associates, Inc.
Badger Utility Inc.	Marshall Field's
Bank One, Madison	McFarland State Bank
Bensman Advertising	Michael, Best & Friedrich
Benson Accounting	Mid-Plains Telephone Company
Bock Water Heaters, Inc.	Mid-State Laboratory
Bruce Company	National Mutual Benefit *
BT Squared	Oscar Mayer Foods Corporation
Clifford & Reuter, S.C.	PDQ Food Stores, Inc.
CUNA & Affiliates *	Placon Corporation
CUNA Mutual Insurance Group	Rayovac Corporation
Danny A. Tzakis & Associates	Sieling Enterprise
DEC International - Albrecht Fndn.*	Simon & Voss Realtors
Demco, Inc.	Stoughton Trailers, Inc.
Envir. Foundation and Drilling	Suby, Von Haden & Associates
Eugenie Mayer Bolz Family Fndn.	TDS Telecom
Everen Securities, Inc.	The Capital Times and
First Business Bank *	Wisconsin State Journal *
Firststar Bank	Thorstad Chevrolet *
Foley & Lardner	UW Provisions Company
Fontana Sports Specialties, Inc.	Vandewalle & Associates *
Geib Realty *	Viobin Corp/SPL Division
General Casualty Companies	W. Jerome Frautschi Charitable Trust *
Goodman's Jewelers	Webcrafters, Inc.
Hausman Insurance	Western Center Properties Inc.
Hooper Construction Corporation	Wheeler, Van Sickle, and Anderson
John J. Frautschi Family Fndn. *	Williams Environmental Associates *
Kayser Ford	Wisconsin Trails Magazine
Kennedy Hahn TV & Appliance*	Zimbrick, Inc.
Klipstein Insurance Services, Inc.	

* Already renewed for 1996

Reception for Business Members - April 18

At Suby Von Haden & Associates

Business members and colleagues are invited to hear Brian Vandewalle speak about land use trends in Dane County, at a reception held in appreciation of businesses who invest in our local conservation projects. For more information call Ruth at 258-9797 or email at ruth@oppedahl.com

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:

In honor of the birthday of:

Jane Licht

by Dane County Register of Deeds Office Staff

In memory of

Mary R. Beamish

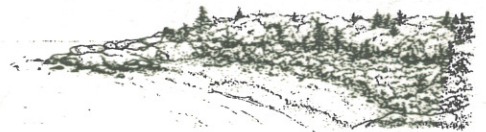
Joseph Crosby

Ethel Gunkel

by Jean & Walter Meantwell

Marshall Erdman

by Emily H. Earley



Lower Mud Lake

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

Gordon & Jean Freese

Lola Hickey

Elizabeth and Richard McCoy

----- cut and return -----

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!



Jeff Nania of the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association and Marcus Renner of DCNHF survey Six Mile Creek on the Wilke Preserve.

The Wilke Preserve, one mile north of Waunakee, contains a large basin with several springs and an un-named tributary of Six-Mile Creek which the Foundation hopes to restore as a wetland. The restoration is a joint project with the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association. When restored, this wetland area will provide a feeding and resting area for migratory waterfowl and other wildlife.

A few of our neighbors have asked good

questions concerning the project and its impact on their property. To get some answers, we are carrying out additional surveying of the creek basin and requesting a drainage analysis through the University Extension Service drainage experts. The results will be shared with everyone and will help us all better understand the drainage in this area. Anyone with questions can call Ruth at the DCNHF office 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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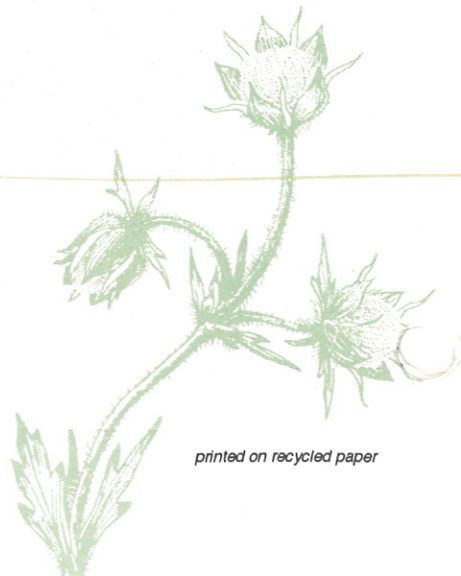
William P. O'Connor, *Conservation Director*

Marcus Renner
Ruth Oppedahl
Newsletter Editors

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteering for DCNHF is a great way to learn more about land conservation in Dane County. We are looking for a person to help us organize our collection of photographs, put together a scrapbook, create displays about the Foundation and its projects and help create a brochure. The schedule is flexible according to your needs. If you are interested in all or a portion of these tasks, please call Ruth at 258-9797.

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