



DANE COUNTY NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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

Fall/Winter 1997



Aldo Leopold and his family turned a chicken coop into this cozy shack and every weekend the Leopold family would plant trees and collect prairie seed to restore this worn out farm to its native state. This place inspired much of Leopold's writing, including the Sand County Almanac.

A Special Night Recognizing Exemplary People

The 1997 Stewardship Awards

*Bud Jordahl, Bernadine & Cecil Smith,
Token Creek Watershed Community,
Dick Wagner and the Middleton High School
Environmental Studies Program are honored*

On October 30, the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation presented the 1997 Stewardship Awards to those, who in the spirit of Aldo Leopold, have dedicated their lives to the conservation of our natural heritage. The program began with Justin Isherwood's greeting to all of us, "The Land Keepers". With warmth and wit he spoke of a conservation ethic inspired by connection to one's land. His address honored this year's award recipients.

Bud Jordahl - Since the 1950's Bud has worked in Wisconsin to create new hunting and fishing areas, design the National Scenic and Wild Rivers Act, assist rural communities in economic planning and, with his wife Marilyn, rejuvenate an old worn-out farm for wildlife. He helped to designate the Apostle Islands as a National Seashore and taught in the Urban & Regional Planning Department at UW-Madison. In his retirement, he continues to serve on several statewide boards involved in land conservation. His work, together with his colleague Gaylord Nelson, has left a strong conservation legacy for the State of Wisconsin (continued on page 2).

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Stewardship recipients continued ...

Dick Wagner - Influenced greatly by Aldo Leopold's *Sand County Almanac*, Dick came to Madison in the 1960's and grew to love the land and waters of Dane County. His involvement in local government exemplifies the very best of the Leopold Land Ethic. Through Dick's leadership on the Dane County Board of Supervisors, Dick led the creation of the Greenspace Committee and worked with Supervisor Carol Brooks to pass the county's first Greenspace Plan. He created the County Conservation Fund for acquisition of parks and openspace areas. He is interested in the natural beauty and history found in Dane County, and his work ensures this heritage for future generations.

*A thing is right when it tends
to preserve the integrity,
stability and beauty of
the biotic community.*

- Aldo Leopold

*That land is a community
is the basic concept of
ecology, but that land is to
be loved and respected is an
extension of ethics.*

- Aldo Leopold

Bernadine & Cecil Smith - Lifetime residents of Token Creek, Cecil and Bernadine appreciate the beauty of Dane County. As private landowners they have taken seriously the responsibility to be good stewards of the land. They have carried out innumerable habitat improvements on their land; tree plantings, wildlife ponds and bird feeders. Bernadine, a retired teacher and Cecil, a builder and construction business owner, went far beyond their own love of the land when they donated the "Big Hill", a local landmark and undeveloped tract of wild land, to the DeForest School District for use as an outdoor classroom. Countless school children will discover and learn more about our natural world because of them.

Token Creek Watershed Community - It is rare to find a watershed organization that is as "grassroots" as that initiated by the people of Token Creek. At a "Future Search" forum in March, they discovered very strong common interests and in everything that they do, they focus on that common ground and remain optimistic about the future. Through tours, stream clean-ups, educational mailings, workshops, and research projects, these citizens have put Token Creek "back on the map". Their collaborative spirit helps their effort transcend political boundaries and go farther toward balancing growth and environmental considerations in a way that protects natural beauty and water quality for all residents in the future.

A **Youth Stewardship Award** is given to a youth or youth group demonstrating ongoing commitment to land conservation or natural area restoration in Dane County. Pleasant Company is funding this year's \$100 cash award. The 1997 winners are the **students from Middleton High School's Environmental Studies Program** for their 300+ hours of native plant restoration work on the Fredericks Farm Park in Middleton, establishment of a school prairie and wetland, and their involvement making radio infomercials, videos and a festival during Earth Week.

The Stewardship Awards were started in 1989. Past awardees include Owen Gromme, Bud Morton, Dr. Joe Hickey among others. We hope by sharing their stories others will be inspired to do the same.

Thank You's

The 1997 Stewardship Awards celebration was made possible by the generous underwriting of:

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Sponsors of the event include:

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The Smith Family
Jerry & Donna Smith
Jan & Scott Zimmermann
Wild Birds Unlimited

1997 Conservation Highlights



The Year in Review. We have just celebrated our 14th anniversary and our most successful year ever. Our Board, staff and volunteers continue to work with private landowners and public agencies to preserve wetlands, springs, woodlands and prairies in Dane County. These protected areas benefit all of us by providing plant and wildlife habitat, clean water and open space that adds beauty to our landscape. In just the past 12 months, you have helped us to:

- ⌘ Expand the Nine Springs E-Way, home of native plants like blazing star and golden alexanders.
- ⌘ Add a new section to the Capital City State Trail.
- ⌘ Facilitate the preservation of 135 acres of productive farmland by bringing together a coalition of public and private parties in the first purchase of development rights transaction in Wisconsin.

- ⌘ Initiate the remarkably successful Token Creek Forum.
- ⌘ Sponsor formal field research in Lake Wingra and the Token Creek Watershed.
- ⌘ Construct a 10 acre wetland restoration and purchase an additional 3 acres for a prairie restoration on our Wilke Preserve.
- ⌘ Collaborate with Dane County Parks and the UW Arboretum in negotiations to purchase up to 30 acres adjoining the Arboretum's Greene Prairie for a public park.

What's Ahead? Even though we have successfully overseen the conservation of over 700 acres, we believe our work has just begun. Your continued support will help us meet the following goals that we have set for 1998:

- ⌘ To work with private landowners to preserve an additional 100-200 acres of open space, wetlands, prairies and woods in Dane County.
- ⌘ To continue collaborative projects with public agencies to preserve significant natural areas in the Waubesa State Natural Area, Nine Springs E-Way, Token Creek Watershed and UW Arboretum.
- ⌘ To manage the stewardship of more than 700 acres of Foundation-protected lands.

We assure you that we will continue to foster the "land ethic" of Aldo Leopold and support collaborative partnerships to make 1998 even more successful than 1997.

Time to Thank Our 1997 Business Members

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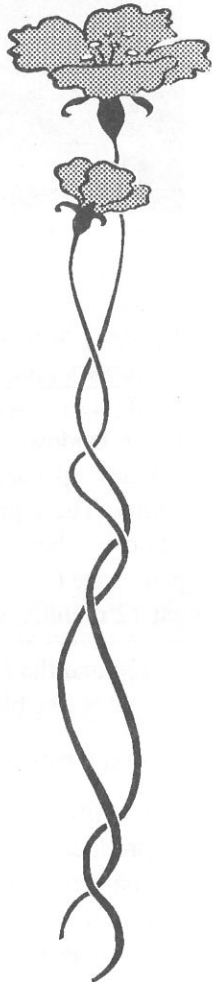
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If you know any potential business members not appearing in the list above, please invite them to join the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation or give us a contact name by calling (608) 258-9797.

A Community's Wonderful Watershed Year

As 1997 draws to a close, let's reflect on the unique citizen effort in Token Creek. The watershed program started with a bang in March when 100 watershed residents gathered at a forum to design ways to better care for their watershed. In the closing moments of the forum, the highly motivated participants vowed to work toward common goals, like interconnecting trails, improved water quality, more intergovernmental collaboration, and enhanced public spaces.

And local citizens have kept their word. Since the forum, volunteers have dedicated over 2500 hours to various watershed projects. Their accomplishments in 1997 include:

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- Attending regular meetings of the four citizen committees.
 - Updating the community on progress at four public meetings.
 - Receiving pledges of \$2600 from local residents at one public meeting.
 - Raising \$1333 at the 4th of July raffle.
 - Attracting over 100 people to watershed tours in six watershed field trips.
 - Conducting clean-up days and adopting Egge Road for regular clean-ups.
 - Rallying the energies of 25 people for a trout pond beautification project.
 - Partnering with the UW-Madison on four watershed research projects.
 - Planning a series of storm water strategy sessions for local governments, developers, builders, planners, engineering firms and the public.
 - Creating a slide show and display and distributing numerous fact sheets.

And the watershed community is looking forward to an even more successful year in 1998 as they strive to meet the following goals:

- Forming a Watershed Board to support the work groups through visioning, fund-raising, membership-building and morale-boosting.
- Offering the community watershed tours based on themes like history, wildlife tracking, water quality monitoring and bird watching.
- Partnering with Boy/Girl Scouts and service organizations to place welcome signs at the boundaries of the watershed.
- Inviting citizens to the stormwater strategy sessions in March 1998 to discover better ways to prevent and treat suburban runoff and erosion throughout the watershed.
- Conducting several fund-raisers to support public service projects.
- Composing a glossary of watershed terms for the community.
- Distributing the UW-Madison graduate student's, "Atlas to Water Resources in the Token Creek Watershed".
- Initiating water quality monitoring on the spring-fed Harbison Tributary.

Although these goals are lofty, the watershed effort continues to be optimistic about its future. The participants have solid support from the entire community, because of the inclusive and collaborative values that guide the effort. Their philosophy is fundamentally different from many watershed groups in that they are not advocating specific positions unless they emerge from consensus. They learn and grow by listening and considering the interests of all. They make decisions through consensus, approach problem-solving through collaboration and continually invite the entire community to join their effort. If they advocate one thing, it is the endless process of self-education. They believe that each one of us can always learn more about how to better care for our land, our creeks and our watersheds.

To all the people involved in the program, congratulations on a wonderful watershed year.

To get involved or to request more information, please contact Jon Doré, Token Creek Watershed Specialist at (608) 258-9797.



Jeff Nania of the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association and Louie Meister of LMS Construction level the 45 foot long water control device on the Wilke Preserve.

Wetland Construction Almost Done

After two years of preparations, the wetland restoration project is almost done at the Wilke Preserve. If all goes well, next spring about 8-10 acres of the old wetland basin will be covered with a shallow pond creating habitat for ducks and other waterfowl. This wetland project is a joint partnership of the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association and the Yahara Mendota Priority Watershed Project. The Foundation is indebted to many people who made this project possible. Lauren Azar provided invaluable legal assistance, Leonard Massie, Mark Martin, Mark Williams and Marcus Renner provided technical advice.



Leaving a Conservation Legacy for Natural Areas in Dane County

Each year, the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation has been fortunate to have among our members, individuals who have made astounding commitments to the preservation of natural areas in Dane County.

Through gifts of land, appreciated stocks, bequests, and gifts of insurance these conservationists provide a legacy for future. There are many ways to include the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation in your estate plans, including the donation of a conservation easement. Please call us if you would like to discuss how conservation and estate planning can go hand in hand.



Jessy Jaeger helps collect prairie seed

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 Watershed Program
- ☐ How to make a gift through my will
- ☐ How to make a gift of real estate

Send to:

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633 W. Main St.
Madison, WI 53703-2633
608-258-9797

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

Special Gifts

If you would like to remember a special person, 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, marriages, anniversaries as well as donations in memory of loved ones.

The Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation has received the following special gifts:

In loving memory of Clayton Wolf

by Gary & Nancy Fay
and Jacqueline Sale

In honor of Jane & Wes Licht's
30th Wedding Anniversary and Barn Dedication
by William Lunney & Judie Pfeifer

Special gift toward the Greenway Purchase
by Jean Knickmeyer



Blue Gentians on the Wilke Preserve

Photo by Mary Kelly

DANE COUNTY NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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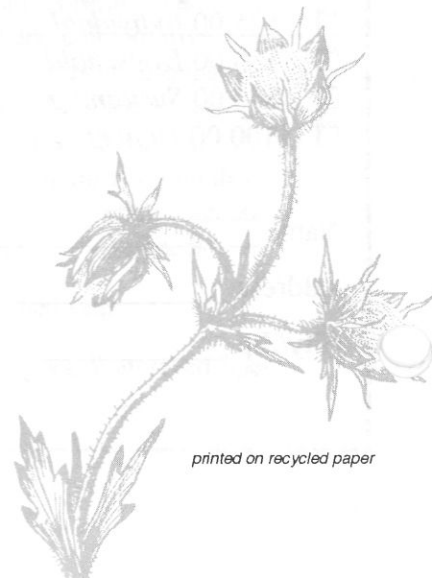
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