



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/Spring 1997

Greenway Acquisition Succeeds!

Thanks to the work of many partners and generous contributions from the public, over 200 acres of woods, wetlands, and rich farmland only 10 minutes from the State Capitol will be forever open! On March 24th, the Foundation signed the option to buy a large parcel of land from the Sinaiko Family Trust.

Standing on an oak-lined ridge in the Northern part of the property, you overlook the nine springs of the E-Way. From a high point in the Southern part, farmland rolls before you, almost to the edge of Lake Waubesa.

Following in the steps of progressive land trusts around the nation, DCNHF coordinated a complex \$1 million dollar, multi-party conservation transaction that resulted in a truly win-win outcome.

In December, the Dane County Parks Department notified us of the opportunity to purchase this large parcel of land. The Foundation recognized this as a chance to take on a role that land trusts are uniquely qualified to do, that is, facilitate transactions between many diverse partners. The public benefit would be enormous if we succeeded.

We had a chance to demonstrate our ability when the landowners Amy, Ellen, and Sara Sinaiko agreed to a 90-day option. The option allowed us to begin talking seriously with our partners, Dane County Parks, the Town of Dunn, a farmer, the Washington, D.C.-based Conservation Fund and Gathering Waters.

As you've read in our "News Flashes," accomplishments include

- acquiring a critical piece of the Nine Springs E-Way by Dane County Parks, using money from the Dane County Conservation Fund
- providing a route for the Capital City State Bicycle Trail by Dane County Parks
- purchasing the development rights of 140 acres of farmland as the inaugural transaction of the Town of Dunn's Rural Preservation Program.
- acquisition of affordable farmland under permanent restrictions by a local farmer
- a \$2000 grant to support transaction costs from Gathering Waters
- gifts of over \$12,000 from enthusiastic supporters
- a \$400,000 loan from the Washington-based Conservation Fund to carry costs

Congratulations to you all for your involvement in this landmark preservation effort!

We are very pleased to be working with our conservation partners and receiving so much public support for this project, our most complicated land deal to date.



Photo: Jan Zimmermann

A wintry look at the farmland to be forever preserved.

❖ **We're Planning a Celebration** of the successful closing of the Greenway deal, to be held at the property during Earth Week!

Join in the excitement of the occasion, and meet others who value natural areas and enjoy being outdoors. We'll send a flyer with details soon.

Thanks to Outgoing Board Directors

The Foundation is extremely fortunate to have an active, working board of directors who oversee our programs. Over the past 14 years, each board director has made unique and valuable contributions which have strengthened our organization. Thanks to all who have served in this capacity.

Carolyn Hapeman has served as treasurer for one year for the Foundation. Through her efforts, we have streamlined payroll and revised our accounting to better fit our needs. Carolyn's career has taken a new direction causing her to currently step down as a treasurer, but to our delight, she will continue volunteering with the Foundation as a member of the PR/Development Committee.

John B. Hutchinson has stood at the helm of the Token Creek project since its inception in 1991. His energy, positive leadership and vision helped the Foundation in establishing the streambank protection program with the state and the county. He has met with landowners, helped coordinate the Youth Conservation Corps and always had a ready hand and an encouraging word promoting the Token Creek efforts. John and his wife Judith, owners of Fontana Sports Specialties, clearly demonstrate in their personal and professional lives a true commitment to stewardship of our natural world.

Deborah Slavin has contributed her experience in development to help plan our annual Stewardship Awards event the past two years. We appreciate her professional contributions to further the conservation work of the Foundation and wish her well with her many future endeavors.

Jan Zimmermann has brought a tremendous amount of time and goodwill to dozens and dozens of conservation projects of the Foundation. Jan has visited properties, researched data, coordinated with agencies and advised on easement documents. She has helped solve problems with creativity and style. Jan has served on almost every DCNHF committee and helped with every event for six years! With boundless energy and local knowledge of Dane County, Jan has given generously of her time and talents to our organization.

Thanks Marcus!

For the past year and a half, we have been lucky to have **Marcus Renner** on our staff as a land protection assistant. Marcus was instrumental in setting up our baseline notebook and monitoring system for our conservation easements. His work is now used as an example for other land trusts. Marcus was also very involved in researching community-based projects around the country that eventually encouraged us to initiate the Token Creek Forum. This fall, he began his graduate work in the Conservation Biology program at the UW-Madison. We wish him the best!

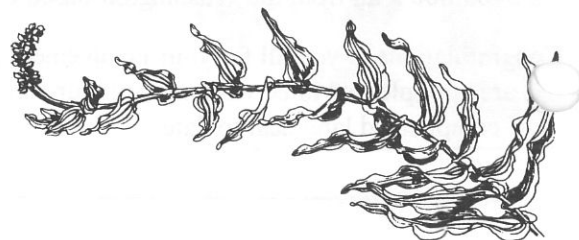


A gift to the Natural Heritage Foundation may be in the form of cash, bequests, life insurance, securities, or life income gifts. Contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law. If you'd like to discuss a gift to the Foundation, please call our office at 258-9797.



DCNHF Staff. L-R: Ruth Oppedahl, Jon Doré, Benson Gardner

Welcome to Benson Gardner who joined our staff this winter. Benson has already become indispensable in our office by managing the many details of membership, publicity and all-around administrative support. His half-time job with the Foundation allows him to work on conservation projects while also pursuing another passion: to produce comedy TV shows on Madison's public access channel.



Token Creek Watershed Forum is a Rousing Success

Residents Charting a Course for their Watershed's Future

Despite the season's worst ice storm and competition from the Badger basketball team's tournament bid, nearly 100 citizens of the Token Creek Watershed gathered at St. Albert's Church on March 13th and 14th for an interactive forum on the future. Farmers, developers, educators, residents, business owners and government officials invested 1½ days to discover common ground and agree upon a vision for a desired future in the Token Creek Watershed.



Photo: Jim Klingbeil

The forum was designed to fully involve people from all walks of life.



Photo: Jim Klingbeil

Sue Scholl, a local builder, outlines her group's "glads".

The forum participants worked together in small groups to complete a series of activities and answer some crucial questions. After reviewing their collective knowledge of Token Creek's past, the forum participants began to analyze the present. They identified and then voted for the things that made them maddest, saddest, and gladdest in the watershed. It was significant that we "shared diverse, and in some cases, opposing viewpoints in a non-threatening manner", said one participant. Another added that "all ideas were accepted and no one was put down". As the open and honest discussions of the forum continued, a feeling of community grew in the room.

From the top voted mads, sads, and glads, the participants then identified major trends, events and happenings in the watershed, such as the decline of the family farm, a high quality of life, increasing development, and worsening water quality. With the major trends in mind, the participants were ready for the challenge of envisioning a future that they would want their children and grandchildren to be able to enjoy, a future 30 years from now in the year 2027.

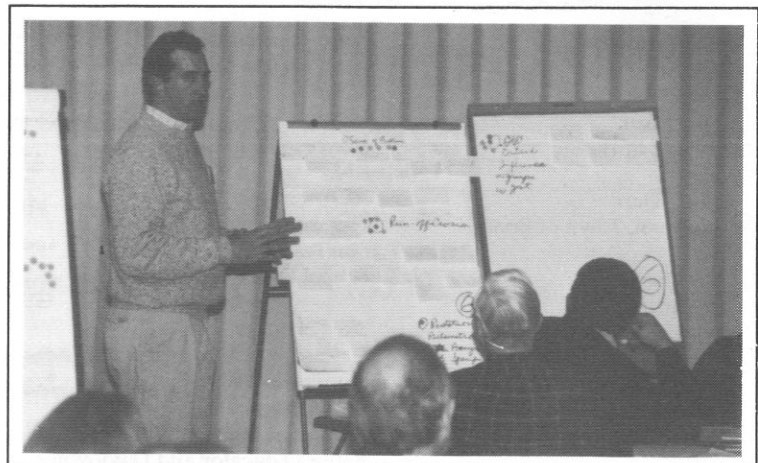


Photo: Jim Klingbeil

Bob Wipperfurth, an area farmer, describes several major trends.

The groups had only 1½ hours to develop a presentation on their vision for a desired future. In what many felt was the highlight of the forum, the seven work groups presented a series of entertaining, creative, and thought-provoking skits, news broadcasts, maps, and commentary. The quality skits and talented group members kept the audience attentive and amused. Throughout the presentations, the forum participants noted common themes within the various visions of the future. Even after a day and a half, the enthusiasm was still building.



Photo: Jim Klingbeil

Bob Kalhagen (r) compares an ideal, future Token Creek Watershed with a hypothetical watershed called Sludge Creek. Bruce Stravinsky (l), in the role of a sludge creek resident, later answered a question about their "wildlife" by saying "well we've actually put all our wildlife in a zoo...for their own protection"

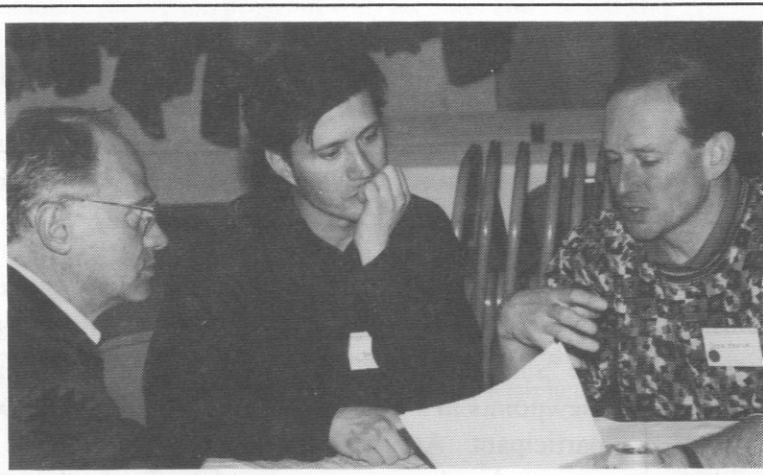


Photo: Jim Klingbeil

Bert Stitt (l) and Drew Howick (r), the forum facilitators, discuss the logistics of forming the study groups with Jon Doré, the DCNHF's Token Creek resource specialist.

Next, the participants transformed the common vision themes into topics in need of study and action. By the end of the forum, the following five study groups had formed to investigate major topic areas: 1) Water, Wetlands and Wildlife Task Force; 2) Parks and Trails Group; 3) Mill Pond Study Group, 4) Token Creek Education Group; and 5) Land Use Planning Committee. Call DCNHF at 258-9797 if you would like to join a group and work toward a better future. The study groups will report back to the community at a watershed meeting on May 6th, 1997.

Thanks to the Forum Design Team

Arthur Anhalt Lifetime Resident and Farmer	Ruth Oppedahl Program Director, DCNHF
Ken Bedker Town of Burke	Jo Ann Orfan Mayor, City of Sun Prairie
Gerald Derr Chairman, Town of Bristol	Al Rosenthal District Administrator, Sun Prairie Area School District
Alan Harvey Chairman, Town of Windsor	Sue Scholl Hauden and Scholl Builders, Inc. Sun Prairie, WI
Jim Klingbeil DeForest Area School District	Bernadine Smith Retired Educator and Landowner
Herman Krause Krause Builders, Inc.	Mark Williams Williams Environmental Associates, Inc. DCNHF Board Member

Thanks to the Token Creek Forum Sponsors

City of Sun Prairie	Town of Burke
Sun Prairie Area School District	Town of Bristol
DeForest Area School District	Town of Windsor
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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? Donations to DCNHF may be in honor of any special occasion as well as in memory of a loved one, and could protect a wetland, restore a prairie, or preserve a woodland. The honoree or family will be notified of your contribution, so please include an address.

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

In Memory of Chuck Cell, for the Greenway Purchase

by Helaine Muehlmeier

In Memory of Mary Watts Sondern

by Community National Bank of Oregon

and bequests by:

Chuck Cell
Harold Kubly
Alice Watts

Photo: Marcus Renner



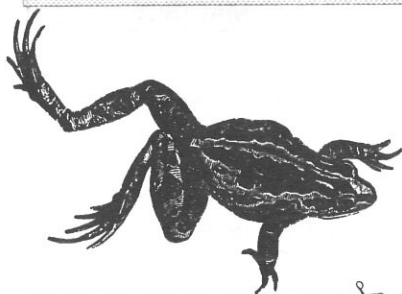
A pool at Storybrook Farm, the beloved home of the late Chuck Cell, who recently left a bequest to the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation.

Business Supporters

One-third of our annual budget comes from business memberships. Thank you to the 34 businesses who have given so far for 1997.

AE Business Solutions
American Family Insurance
Architectural Building Arts
Bank One, Madison
Bruce Co.
Chickadee Depot
DEC International-Albrecht Fdtn.
Demco, Inc.
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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

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

Send to:

DCNHF
633 W. Main St.
Madison, WI 53703-2633

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!

Conservation Projects Behind the Scenes

by Ruth Oppedahl, Program Director

I'd like to share with you some of the projects we are working on that don't make the newspaper headlines, yet exemplify our ongoing work as a local landtrust.

Currently, the Foundation is working with several families who intend to place conservation easements on their property. Their goals vary from farmland preservation, to streamside buffers to natural areas protection. Some of these transactions will occur soon, others may not happen for years, yet the groundwork we do together carries forth our mission to protect natural areas in Dane County.

Our first prairie restoration, the Wilke Preserve near Waunakee, is looking great. This summer, we hope to reconstruct the wetlands once found on the site. Thanks to Theresa Giardi for donating bluebird boxes for the prairie.

This winter, the Foundation also made offers on two properties on behalf of the public. One piece would have expanded Cherokee Marsh, another would have expanded the Waubesa Wetlands Natural Area. In both cases, the transactions were stopped by the other party, but we made a valiant effort. More active pursuit of such opportunities is possible due to bequests, like Dr. Alice Watts', which enable us to take out loans while funds are acquired for final purchase.

Our members make it possible to carry out these projects, thank you.

Photo: Lucy Solberg



Murphy Creek flows towards Lake Waubesa. The land this brook calls home, came to DCNHF as one of the generous gifts of the late Dr. Watts.

DANE COUNTY NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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Madison, WI 53703-2633
608-258-9797

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