

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 1998

Big Changes Afoot at the Foundation

The Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation has seen some exciting times lately. The foundation gained an entirely new staff, a new president, a passel of new board members and a new office—all in twelve weeks! This article details staff and location changes. You'll find more information on Board of Directors transitions inside this newsletter.

Our new director is Danielle Wood. Like many others, Danielle came to Madison for graduate school and never left. With a B.S. in landscape architecture and a M.S. in Urban and Regional Planning, she has experience in natural resources management from both public and private perspectives. Prior to joining DCNHF, Danielle worked with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. She also worked for a number of years with planning consulting firms. Danielle is excited to have the opportunity to experience conservation work from the non-profit side.

Originally from South Bend, IN, Danielle shares a beautiful old house with several roommates on Madison's near-west side. Happily, the new job is within biking distance. In a world of endless free time, Danielle would do more cooking, traveling and painting.

DCNHF also welcomes Sarah Van Tiem as its watershed and outreach specialist. Sarah will divide her time between coordinating the Token Creek Watershed Program, a citizen-led environmental stewardship initiative and overseeing the communications and fundraising for DCNHF. Outreach includes writing the newsletter and managing the annual business drive (Ed.'s note: The latest round of corporate fundraising begins in October.).

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New Executive Director Danielle Wood (r) and Watershed & Outreach Specialist Sarah Van Tiem (l).

Green Prairie Update

The efforts of a coalition of local environmental organizations and institutions to acquire the Harlan Sprague Dawley Property adjacent to the world-class prairie restoration received a major setback in September when city of Fitchburg residents voted no on a referendum that would have allowed the city to participate in buying and protecting the land. Voters rejected the advisory referendum by a nearly two to one margin. If voters had approved the referendum, Fitchburg would have spent up to \$750,000 to help buy the land on which Indiana businessman Hal Harlan wants to build a housing development.

Former DCNHF Program Director Ruth Oppedahl comments that the referendum was a critical element in the effort. "Though it may be possible to finance the purchase of the 72-acre parcel without Fitchburg's help, clear citizen support would have provided a powerful negotiation tool. City residents have chosen not to take part in the preservation of this site as a new park. We can't force the issue," says Oppedahl.

Without a mandate from Fitchburg residents or indication that the owner will accept a fair market offer for the property, what's next? The coalition, which includes the Defenders of Greene Prairie, DCNHF, the UW-Arboretum, Dane County Parks and others, recently decided to await the outcome of landowner Harlan's lawsuit against the city of Fitchburg. The city "down-zoned" the property from residential low-density to rural development, reducing the number of houses that Harlan could build there. This reversed an earlier zoning change that would have allowed him to construct a higher-density development. A ruling in favor of the city offers the possibility of greater protection to the prairie.

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STAFF

Danielle Wood,
Executive Director
Sarah Van Tiem,
Watershed & Outreach Specialist

William O' Connor,
Director of Conservation

Theresa Girardi,

Board Changes

Current President Mike Slaveny, of Vandewalle and Associates announced his resignation from the DCNHF Board in September. Mike served three full terms on the board, the maximum possible according to our bylaws. We appreciate his years of hard work, and wish him the best in his future endeavors. Mike promises to stay in tune with our efforts to preserve our county's natural heritage.

Meanwhile, longtime supporter John Hutchinson has volunteered to step into the presidency. Hutchinson, who along with his wife Judith, owns Fontana Sports on State Street in Madison, served on the DCNHF Board from 1990 through 1996. John has also actively participated in the Token Creek Watershed Program from its inception. John will assume leadership of DCNHF in November. Besides changes at the helm, we're pleased to announce the addition of six board members. Look for more information on our newest directors in the next newsletter.

Bill Fleck	Leonard Massie
Susan Fox (see <i>Welcome Aboard</i>)	Eugene Roark
Richard Green	Harriet Riley



Elizabeth Ivers, *Sky Over Madeline Island*, oil on panel, 1997.

A Picturesque Contribution

Local painter Elizabeth Ivers recently put her art to work for the environment. She displayed her lakescapes in the CitiARTS exhibit space in the lobby of the Madison Municipal Building last summer. Ivers donated a portion of the sales from the show to the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation. She did so because of her commitment to the environment and her ties to former DCNHF Program Director Ruth Oppedahl. "I'm really impressed with the work the organization does on a pretty small budget."

The CitiARTS space provides area artists with a public forum in which to exhibit their work. They compete for one of 24 spots available annually by applying to the Madison CitiARTS Commission.

Ivers likes to depict the interaction of land, water and sky. One of her favorite pieces, "Sky Over Madeline Island," captures deep blue storm clouds rolling over the island. Many of Ivers' works do not refer to land at all, but instead explore how sky and water play off each other at the horizon.

Ivers sees a fundamental link between the arts and the environment. "Developing an emotional connection to the natural world through the appreciation of beauty is a first step toward environmental concern," she says. She believes that painting can encourage that appreciation.

The painter, who came to Madison from Texas, graduated from the UW's Institute for Environmental Studies. Ivers believes that artists, many of whom draw their inspiration from the natural world, have an obligation to give something back. Her support of the foundation is an important part of that.

Token Creek Keeps Rolling

The US Army Corps of Engineers recently selected the Token Creek Watershed as a potential site for a stream restoration project—a decision that may bring millions of dollars to the area. The stream has been chosen as part of a new Army Corps program that focuses on rehabilitating aquatic ecosystems with local partners.

The project will build on the Token Creek Watershed Program's momentum. It will also build on the efforts of a coalition of public and private entities to acquire the land surrounding the former mill pond wetland area.

*"The project will
build on the Token
Creek Watershed
Program's
momentum."*

The following are among the restoration project's goals: to remove the dam, control stormwater runoff, restore the stream's natural channel in the old lake bed, and establish a self-sustaining, wild population of native brook trout.

The Token Creek Watershed Program held a community meeting in September to discuss the proposed restoration with project leaders from the Army Corps and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the effort's local sponsor. Both agencies have made a commitment to serious public involvement in project planning.

Planning for the project is in its initial stages. At this point, the Army Corps and DNR plan to restore the stretch of creek from I-94 to Highway C. Dorrie Bollman, project leader for the Army Corps, estimates that it will take between two and three years before any Corps-sponsored work begins. However, Ken Johnson, Lower Rock River Basin Team Leader for the

DNR reports that other work on the creek may begin well before then.

Closing on the acquisition of the former mill pond takes place in late October or early November. A public celebration will follow.

Green Prairie, con't

In the meantime, given that the purchase of the property adjacent to Green Prairie may not be possible, what lessons does this experience hold for the conservation community in Dane County?

Be proactive. Work on acquiring land to insulate Green Prairie from the negative effects of urbanization could have started much earlier than 1995. Nothing arouses public concern more quickly than an emergency. However, it's important to lay preservation groundwork well in advance, to make sure that quick action is when the time comes. Madison area conservationists have been concerned about the rat farm property for the past thirty years, but preliminary attempts at negotiating on the property went nowhere.

Be media-savvy. Referendum opponents effectively used the media to broadcast their message. A well-orchestrated and professional effort to engage and inform the media about the reasons to protect Green Prairie could have done much to further the cause of conservation.

Use strategic alliances. The Greene Prairie coalition was extremely effective in this area. Under the leadership of the Defenders of Greene Prairie, the coalition aroused considerable public concern and the support of numerous environmental organizations and public agencies.

Don't underestimate the power of public opinion. It's a major accomplishment that the question of whether to support purchasing the Harlan Sprague Dawley property came before Fitchburg voters at

all. Although this time, local public opinion eventually came down against open space in Dane County, the experience shows how loudly people can speak when they choose to lift their voices.

Fix inadequate land use plans before it's too late. The Harlan Sprague Dawley property was improperly zoned for high density development. According to Oppedahl, the Fitchburg land use plan was supposed to have been changed but never was. As a result, when Harlan Sprague Dawley presented a low-density project, it looked "better" than what could have happened.

Thanks to Ruth Oppedahl of the Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve for help with this article.

Big Changes, con't.

Most recently, Sarah was the DNR's Safe Drinking Water Program Educator. Before that, she worked for UW-Extension's Environmental Resources Center. Sarah has a master's degree in Land Resources Management from the UW's Institute for Environmental Studies. She also has degrees in literature and history from the University of Michigan.

The last year has been a tumultuous one for Sarah, who is originally from Detroit. She married Scott Laich, a manufacturing engineer who works for Grant Thornton. In April, Sarah and Scott bought their first home, in Madison's Monroe-Dudgeon Neighborhood. With all the changes, Sarah looks forward to settling down into her new job.

Finally, in addition to acquiring an entirely new staff, the DCNHF moved from its office on West Main Street to a refurbished tobacco barn in the Williamson Street neighborhood. Danielle and Sarah agree it's the coolest (and most unusual) office space in which they have ever worked. If you're interested in discovering what the phrase "rustic-industrial" means, or want to meet the new staff, please visit. You can find DCNHF at 303 S. Paterson, Suite 6, Madison WI 53703. The organization continues to share office space with Gathering Waters.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coming Events

"Sustainable Wisconsin: How We Can Make It Happen" Conference

October 16-18, Monona Terrace

This event features workshops on the nuts and bolts of sustainable living, panels and presentations by regional leaders of the sustainability movement and local tours. Contact the UW's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Outreach Services at 263-1672 for registration information.

National Land Trust Rally

October 17-20

The Land Trust Alliance will hold its 11th Annual Rally at Monona Terrace in Madison. Join us and more than land conservation organizations from across the country to learn more about land protection tools and innovative partnerships and programs. Catch up on the latest legal and regulatory developments. For more information, call LTA at 202/638-4725.

Woodland Walk at the Arboretum

Sunday, October 18, 1-2:30 p.m.

Meet at the Wingra Lot. Call 263-7760 for more information.

Token Creek Farm Tour

Saturday, October 24

Come see a big part of what makes the Token Creek Watershed so special. The Token Creek Watershed Program is sponsoring a tour of some of the farms in the watershed. The tour begins at 9 a.m. and ends around 11:30. Dress for the weather. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, call Sarah Van Tiem at 258-9797.

Troy Community Garden Tour

Saturday, November 7, 10 a.m.

See one of Madison's premier urban gardens and hear about the efforts to preserve this community resource. Meet at the bus stop on Troy Drive. Call the local chapter of the Sierra Club at 829-1502 for more information.

Tour of Arboretum Effigy Mounds

Sunday, November 1, 1-3 p.m. Meet at the McKay Center. Call 263-7760 for more information.

Arboretum Geology Tour

Sunday, November 15, 1-3 p.m. 263-7760.

*Know of any events
that would interest
your fellow
members? Contact
Sarah at 258-9797
and let her know.*

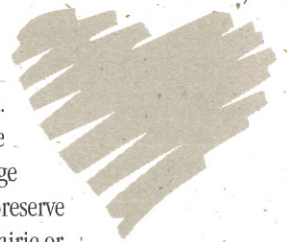
Town of Dunn Home Sites

DCNHF is selling two house lots obtained through the Sinaiko acquisition. The lots are zoned for residential use and located in the town of Dunn on Waucheeta Trail across from Lake Waubesa. One lot is 9.3 acres and one is 16.4 acres. Both sites feature upland woods and wetlands and abut permanently protected land. They're perfect for someone looking to make their home in a beautiful, quiet area. Contact Danielle Wood at 258-9797 for more information.



Special Gifts

There's no better way to honor friends or family members who love Dane County's natural beauty than by helping to protect it. A donation to the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation can help preserve a wetland, restore a prairie or protect some woods. Consider a donation commemorating a birthday, wedding, anniversary or in memory of a loved one.



DCNHF Wish List

One of the great benefits of sharing office space with the Nature Conservancy was sharing their office equipment. We appreciate TNC's generosity greatly. Since moving, however, we need some equipment for our beautiful new office. If you or your employer has used or excess office equipment, please consider donating it to DCNHF. We're looking for:

- ✂ A computer work station
- ✂ A slide projector & screen
- ✂ An overhead projector
- ✂ A TV/video monitor
- ✂ Map holders
- ✂ A fabric covered display board
- ✂ A paper cutter
- ✂ A tall filing cabinet

Welcome Aboard

DCNHF welcomes our newest board member, Susan Fox, to the organization. Susan calls herself a "firm believer in grass roots involvement as the path to better civic involvement," and seems ready to put her ideals into practice. She's excited about serving on the board because "Land trusts are an important [land protection] tool to use in conjunction with regulatory approaches. We need to get the word out to interested participants!" In that vein, Susan will work with the Outreach Committee (formerly known as the Publicity Committee) on communications planning.

Susan works for the Wisconsin State Department of Transportation, where she is an environmental analyst. She reviews environmental impact statements for the department and provides guidance to DOT district staff regulatory matters. Susan recently co-wrote, "Indirect and Cumulative Effects Analysis for Project-Induced Land Development" for the DOT. She holds two graduate degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison—one in library science and her latest achievement—a master's of science in Urban and Regional Planning.

Susan's personal interests include almost anything active outdoors—walking with Pinky, her miniature pinscher, running, biking, canoeing, and snowshoeing. She has two daughters, Bridget and Maureen, who both live in Madison.



New board member Susan Fox

Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation

We can't help protect Dane County's natural areas without help from you!

Membership Categories

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donor | \$100 |

Please send me information on:

- | |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Token Creek Watershed Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> How to make a gift through my will |
| <input type="checkbox"/> How to make a gift of real estate |

Send to:

DCNHF
303 S. Paterson, Suite 6
Madison WI 53703

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Contributions are tax-deductible as provided for by law.

Please make checks payable to the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation.

Thank you!

October

O hushed October morning mild,
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;
To-morrow's wind, if it be wild,
Should waste them all.
The crows above the forest call;
Tomorrow they may form and go.
O hushed October morning mild,
Begin the hours of this day slow,
Make the day seem to us less brief.
Hearts not averse to being beguiled,
Beguile us in the way you know;
Release one leaf at break of day;
At noon release another leaf;
One from our trees, one far away;
Retard the sun with gentle mist;
Enchant the land with amethyst.
Slow, slow!
For the grapes' sake, if they were all,
Whose leaves already are burnt with frost,
Whose clustered fruit must else be lost—
For the grapes' sake along the wall.

Robert Frost
1913

Memorials

In loving memory of Roberta Oppedahl

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 🍀 Hazel Williams | 🍀 Robert & Libbie Dolezal |
| 🍀 Jean & Walter Meanwell | 🍀 Virgil & Susan Dietz |
| 🍀 Janet Beach Hanson | 🍀 Charles & Eileen Liljedahl |
| 🍀 Julie Hayward & Don D'Alessio | 🍀 Robert & Marilyn Boal |
| 🍀 Robert & Del Wright | 🍀 Ivan Wagner |
| 🍀 Carroll & Ruth Jones | 🍀 Verna & Roger Herreid |
| 🍀 Galen & Lucille Robinson | 🍀 Andrew & Carolyn Oppedahl |
| 🍀 Barbara & Roger Flint | 🍀 Ruth Langehough |
| 🍀 Brad & Peggy Johnson | 🍀 Susan Trull & Stewart Bentley |

In loving memory of Robert Paunack

- 🍀 Mary Ann Rehberg



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