

Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation

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

Spring 1999

Vote to Support Conservation April 6

n April 6, area voters will have a chance to support conservation in Dane County by voting yes on an advisory referendum which intends to add to the existing county parks budget in order to purchase and protect more natural resource areas, parks and trails.

The proposed New Conservation Fund would create a \$30 million, 10-year program to purchase and protect more parks, trails and wildlife areas. Up to 20% of the funds may take the form of grants to Dane County cities, villages, towns and nonprofit environmental organizations to protect environmental resources. The New Conservation Fund would augment the existing county budget for parks, bringing the total available in the coming decade for land acquisition, land management and grants to approximately \$40 million. The fund would implement the Dane County Parks and Open Space 2000 Plan.

County Executive Kathleen Falk, who supports the referendum, has suggested that funding for the \$30 million would come from either a

one-twelfth cent addition to the sales tax or a bond issue which may cost the owner of a median-valued (\$135,000) home between \$14 and \$22 annually.

The Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation supports the referendum. "This is a great opportunity to help make conservation happen in Dane County. A resounding yes from local voters will give the county a strong mandate to pursue preservation," says DCNHF President John Hutchinson.

(continued on page 2)

DCNHF and the Town of Dunn—A Dynamic Duo

Thanks to the Town of Dunn's interest in safeguarding its easements, the Natural Heritage Foundation is strengthening its partnership with the town. The foundation collaborated with the town on the Sinaiko Greenway Acquisition in 1997, the first purchase of development rights in Wisconsin.

In this new arrangement, the foundation will co-hold some easements in the town's Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program. Gathering Waters, the statewide organization for land trusts, helped bring the foundation and town together last fall. In October, Renee Lauber, Dunn PDR Program Coordinator, asked the foundation to consider co-holding the town's new easements. Co-holding means that we will share responsibility for monitoring and enforcing the easements. So far, the foundation has agreed to "share" easements on two properties, providing a framework for future collaboration.



The old barn at Lalor Farm, one of two properties in a new, joint Town of Dunn-DCNHF preservation partnership.

The PDR Program

Over the past few years, the Town of Dunn's progressive conservation program has attracted much attention. In 1996, the town established its PDR program by referendum, and it has since protected (continued on page 2)

April 8 is DCNHF Day at Whole Foods Market

Whole Foods Market has chosen the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation as the featured non-profit organization for its latest 5% Day. On Thursday, April 8, five percent of store sales will go directly to the foundation. We plan to use the funds to help establish a field trip program. So, if you're already a Whole Foods customer, please save up your shopping for our 5% Day! If not, please consider giving Whole Foods a try on the 8th - your trip will support a good cause. Whole Foods Market features natural and organic foods, as well as products for a natural lifestyle. The store is located at 3313 University Avenue in Madison.

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DCNHF & DUNN, Cont'd

more than 500 acres. The town recently received over \$500,000 in matching funds from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's Farmland Protection Program to buy additional easements. The program serves as an excellent model of stewardship for other towns.

The Easements

The Natural Heritage Foundation will share easements on the Lalor and Jacobs Properties. Located on Lalor Road, a Wisconsin Rustic Road, the Lalor Property is a 150-acre centennial farm. It boasts woods, wetlands, an intermittent spring, and a large stretch of Swan Creek. The creek flows through Waubesa Wetlands into Lake Waubesa. The farm is near land already held by the foundation and neighbors' land protected by the Nature Conservancy and the Department of Natural Resources.

Under the town's current land use plan, a

developer could have subdivided the farm three times. Consequently, the Town of Dunn purchased development rights for the entire parcel, thus preventing any future division. The easement also protects the farm's unique characteristics, identifying an Archaeological Protection Area and a Wetland Protection Area. The town also prohibited clear-cutting the woods.

In March, the Natural Heritage Foundation agreed to share an easement on the Jacobs property. Located on County Road MN, this 198-acre farm features three registered Indian mounds. It is also part of the Door Creek Wetlands. The Town of Dunn will purchase four splits. The easement identifies an Archaeological Protection Area and a Wetland Protection Area. As in the case of the Lalor Property, the easement disallows clear-cutting the woods.

Vote on April 6, con't

Although Dane County has appropriated more than \$1 million over the past several years to protect natural areas, land prices are rising too fast for the purchase of many critical resource lands. Says Hutchinson, "It's important that we voice our support for the environment decisively. Stronger county preservation efforts will only strengthen our organization's ability to achieve its mission."

Support for the referendum is diverse. Other groups urging a yes vote include the Realtors of South Central Wisconsin, Madison Audubon Society, Madison Area Builders Association, Trout Unlimited, Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation, Capital Community Citizens, Urban Open Space Foundation, South Central Federation of Labor, and the Lake Waubesa Conservation Association. Twenty-eight County Board Supervisors support the referendum.

For more information on how to become involved in supporting the referendum, please call Margaret McEntire of Citizens for the Conservation Fund at 249-0062.

"It's important that we voice our support for the environment decisively."

Token Creek Preparing for Independent Status

Helping to establish the Token Creek Watershed Program (TCWP) is one of the Natural Heritage Foundation's proudest accomplishments. What began in the early '90s as an intensive effort to place easements along

one of Dane County's most threatened creeks has developed into a citizenbased stewardship initiative.

Next September, TCWP will separate from the Natural Heritage Foundation, becoming an independent watershed organization.

"We've enjoyed a productive working relationship," says new TCWP Chair Tom Culver. "The Natural Heritage Foundation has been very generous in its support of our efforts, but it's time for us to spread our wings."

Watershed Specialist Sarah Van Tiem has been working diligently with group

members in preparation for independence. In February, participants selected their first officers: Chair Tom Culver, Vice Chair Bruce Stravinski, Secretary Sarah Cook and Treasurer Mary Hudzinski. In March, participants voted to incorporate as a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization.

Johanna London and Michael Green of Michael, Best and Friedrich, Attorneys, are generously donating their time to help TCWP through the process. Next month, the group will ratify its first board of directors.

Nominated directors include Jim Bricker, Heddy Grove, Barb Hennings, Curt Jahn of Capitol Warehousing, Herman Kraus of Kraus Builders, Gordon Merry, Dennis O'Laughlin, Donald Tierney and the officers.

TCWP is actively seeking funding to support its activities and a half-time watershed coordinator. The group has applied to the Madison Community Foundation, the River Network and the DNR. In addition, starting in April, the group will begin accepting membership pledges.

In the meantime, the group continues to work on restoration planning for the

US Army Corps of Engineers/DNR Token Creek Project. The group is now planning its third Annual Spring Forum for April 22 at the DeForest Area Community Center. This year's forum is called: "Rebirth of a Stream: the Restoration of Token Creek." (See box below for more details.)



The new Token Creek Watershed Program officers, from left to right, Secretary Sarah Cook, Chair Tom Culver, Vice Chair Bruce Stravinski, and Treasurer Mary Hudzinski.

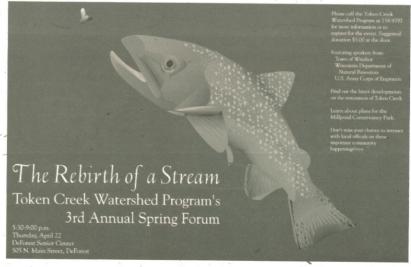
Celebrate Earth Day - Explore the Rebirth of a Stream

The Token Creek Watershed Program is sponsoring its third Annual Community Forum, "Rebirth of a Stream," on Thursday, April 22 from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the DeForest Area Community Center.

In August, the US Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) selected Token Creek as the potential site of a multimillion dollar stream restoration. Since then, TCWP has been working with the Army Corps and DNR (the local project sponsor) on planning for the restoration.

The community forum is your chance to find out what's going on with the project

The restoration will occur on Token Creek from Portage Rd. to Hwy. C in Windsor, with the majority of the work taking place on the land surrounding the former Token Creek Millpond. The Town of Windsor has acquired 64 acres of this land, and an additional 70 adjoining acres. This land will ultimately become a conservancy park.



oster by Greg G

The community forum is your chance to find out what's going on with the project straight from the government officials who are working on the project. Speakers include Army Corps Project Biologist Mark Cornish, local DNR project manager Scot Stewart, and representatives from the Town of Windsor. The DeForest Area Community Center is at 505 N. Main St. in DeForest. The TCWP suggests a \$5 donation at the door. For more information, call 258-9797.

Get to Know Your New DCNHF Board Members

By Matt Nilsson

Richard Green is a professor in the department of Real Estate and Urban Land Economics at UW-Madison. He teaches courses on housing



Richard Green

economics and policy, market analysis, and real estate finance. Richard is also involved in policy making and analysis, serving on the Wisconsin Housing Policy Task Force and the City of Madison Plan Commission.

Richard grew up in LaCrosse, graduated from Harvard, and worked for the Department of Energy in Washington, D.C. before coming to UW-Madison to get his doctorate in economics. He also worked as the research director for the

Wisconsin Realtors Association. He says he would like to see subdivision standards modified so that each new house occupies less land.

"I think the important thing is to think strategically about what land is really valuable for preservation, and then focus on preserving that land because it has special environmental or aesthetic qualities."

Richard says he enjoys spending what free time he has with his wife, Patty Harris, and their two 9-year-old daughters.

"We like visiting large cities and taking walks in the woods," he says. "I'm also very fond of classical music. I play the piano a little although I wish I played more."

Leonard Massie is an emeritus professor in the department of Biological Systems Engineering at UW-Madison. With more than 35 years in research, teaching and Extension, he has worked on the engineering end of many projects involving soil conservation, land development, pollution control, and manure and water resources management. However, Leonard's conservation roots go back even further.

"I grew up in Barron County on a dairy farm where my father practiced erosion control," he says. "That was my first exposure to soil conservation, and I fell in love with it."

Leonard also fell in love with his wife, Marian, whom he married in 1957 while they were both still undergraduates at UW-Madison. He went on to receive master's and doctorate degrees in civil and environmental engineering and has remained in Madison ever since.

Leonard says he has no plans to leave for a warmer climate because he enjoys Wisconsin's seasons. He also says he likes living in Dane County because "there is such a variety of landscapes within a short distance of each other, yet you can still find regions more or less untouched."

In the summer, you can find Leonard "playing tunes" around Madison as a member of the Shrine Band or playing softball. He and his wife also enjoy traveling and spending time with their four grown children and four grandchildren.

Harriet Riley has been involved with the foundation since its inception. She was one of the first contributors to the campaign to save Wally Bauman Woods, which are a part of the Lower Eagle Heights Woods on the shores of Lake Mendota. For the past four years, she has been a DCNHF volunteer, maintaining our membership records. Harriet's interest in preserving Dane County's natural areas stems from her childhood in Ashland, Wis.



Harriet Riley

"Being from Ashland was really important because I loved being outdoors," she says. "In the summer, it was swimming in Lake Superior and biking, and in the winter, it was skiing and snowshoeing."

A graduate from UW-Madison, Harriet recently retired from teaching English as a second language at Velma Hamilton Middle School in Madison. She has four grown children who share her love for the outdoors. Her husband, Shawn, died in 1982. In addition to DCNHF, Harriet also volunteers for Gathering Waters, a statewide organization for land trusts. She says she looks forward to her duties as a DCNHF board member.

"The important thing about the Heritage Foundation is that we partner with other organizations."

It is in this spirit of cooperation, she says, that the Foundation has found success.

Gene Roark spent 18 years working for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and later the Department of Development, serving as the Bureau of Tourism's director for eight years. Gene grew up hunting, canoeing and camping. In fact, he still has a bow that the late Aldo Leopold made for Gene's father.

"I only had one chance to hunt with Leopold on a pheasant hunting triphe, my dad and I—and that was about a year before [Leopold] died."

Gene co-founded the Wisconsin Chapter of the Nature Conservancy in 1960 while he was still a graduate student at UW-Madison. He served on its board of directors for as long as the bylaws allowed and as chair for two years. He says he was excited when DCNHF first got started and is

happy to be a board member. In addition to DCNHF, Gene also serves on the board of the ane County Conservation League and the wisconsin Woodland Owners Association.



Gene Roark

Sometimes, he says, he worries about the effects of urban sprawl.

"I used to be able to stand on Sunset Point in Hoyt Park and look west and see nothing but farms. Now you look

down on Hilldale Shopping Center and Midvale Boulevard—a lot of people figure that area is downtown now."

Despite his worries, Gene remains optimistic.

I think there's a constantly growing number of people who understand what's happening in terms of urban sprawl."

When they have the time, Gene and his wife, Jean, enjoy camping, canoeing, bird watching, well as managing their tree farm in achland County.

Hats Off to Past President Mike Slavney

By Matt Nilsson

As we mentioned in the last newsletter, Mike Slavney resigned from the DCNHF Board Iast fall after serving three full terms—the most recent of which he spent as president. However, one shouldn't confuse resigning with retiring.

"I can't retire," he says with a chuckle, "so I don't think I'll be slowing down much. I'm still going to be active on the Natural Heritage Foundation Board as a president emeritus."

Mike grew up on the west side of Madison, earned his bachelor's degree in geography at UW-Madison, and then went to North Carolina to get a master's degree in planning. He worked there for three years and in the Florida Keys, Jackson Hole, Wyo., Provincetown, Mass., and Chicago before returning to Dane County in 1988. He had served on the DCNHF Board since 1989.

"It was great to work with him," says board member Emily Earley. "He's very intelligent and has great political savvy. He built a good team, provided strong leadership, and got everyone excited."

"I've always been interested in environmental protection and preserving open space," Mike admits. "And the Natural Heritage Foundation has always experimented with different ways of accomplishing pretty aggressive public purchases, and I think it will continue to be creative."

According to former DCNHF Program Director Ruth Oppedahl, Mike's creativity helped DCNHF tackle the complicated land Sinaiko Property transaction. The transaction resulted in the expansion of the Nine Springs E-Way and over 200 acres of permanently preserved farmland and limited development under conservation restrictions.

Besides creativity and leadership, Mike brought other qualities to the foundation as well.

"He brought professional planning expertise to our local conservation projects and humor to our meetings, ever ready with a funny story," Oppedahl says. "His knowledge of the landscape, and his professional connections in the region are of great value."

Currently, Mike works as a community planning and development consultant, specializing in growth management for Vandewalle and Associates. He and his wife Linda live on the west side of Madison with their three children. He enjoys canoeing with his family and early morning rounds of golf.

A Boardwalk for Wilke Preserve

By Joshua Williams

If you've ever walked the trail winding through our Wilke Preserve, north of Waunakee, you know that the clay soil above the stream crossing becomes quite slippery and muddy when wet. Well, tread lightly no longer—thanks to Boy Scouts from Madison Troop 420 and Marling Lumber. Last November, 10 scouts and some adult helpers, led by Eagle Scout candidate Joshua Williams, constructed a 128-foot long boardwalk across this area providing sure footing during wet weather. They spent 75 hours building and installing the walkway.

Foundation member Tom Marling (of Marling Lumber) sold the materials for the boardwalk to the Natural Heritage Foundation at cost. Mr. Marling also made a substantial personal contribution to the foundation, which covered about half of the project costs. Our sincere thanks go to Joshua Williams, Boy Scout Troop 420, and Marling Lumber for the Wilke Preserve boardwalk.

eserve.
Williams,
front row from

The construction crew tries out the new boardwalk at Wilke Preserve.

Standing from left to right: Matt Smith and DCNHF Board Member Mark Williams,

Middle row from left to right: Kyle Peterson and Aaron Polans; front row from

left to right: Eric Smith, Eagle Scout Josh Williams and Drew Peterson.

Events Calendar

Parks & Open Space Referendum Vote

Tuesday, April 6 At your neighborhood polling place. Don't forget to cast your vote for conservation!

Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation Day at Whole Foods Market

8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Thursday, April 8 Whole Foods Market 3313 University Avenue in Madison Shop to support your favorite land trust! The store will donate five percent of that day's profits to us.

The Rebirth of a Stream: the Token Creek Watershed Program Spring Forum

5:30 to 9:00 p.m., Thursday, April 22 DeForest Area Community Center 505 N. Main Street, DeForest This event features speakers from the Town of Windsor, Dané County, the DNR and the US Army Corps of Engineers. Come learn the latest on the restoration of Token Creek. \$5 suggested donation. For more information, call 258-9797.

25th Annual Midwest Crane Count

Saturday, April 24

Sunrise

Locations throughout Dane and neighboring counties

Participate in an effort to help preserve one of Wisconsin's hallmark inhabitants—the Sandhill Crane. The International Crane Foundation in Baraboo sponsors this event to track the state's crane population. Contact Kris Whitman, 244-6654, to sign up in Dane County.

Nature Art Fair

9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday, May 1 Olbrich Botanical Gardens Sponsored by the Madison Audubon Society. Admission and parking are free. Call 246-4716 for more information.

Yahara Watershed Education Fair

9:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m., Tuesday, May 18 Edgewood College

Learn about local land use, ecology, wetlands and water quality through talks, workshops and demonstrations. The fair is sponsored by the Friends of Lake Wingra. Call Jim Lorman at 663-6921 for more details.

Stream Restoration Tour

8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, June 5 Colfax, Wisconsin

This is your chance to see what a restored trout stream looks like and find out more about stream restoration in Wisconsin. We'll be visiting 18 Mile Creek, outside Eau Claire. Tour includes lunch. Dress for the weather. Cost is \$7.00. To register, call 258-9797.

Town of Dunn Home Site

DCNHF is selling a 16.4-acre house lot obtained through the Sinaiko acquisition. The lot is located off Waucheeta Trail across from Lake Waubesa (one block from a lake access). It features woods and wetlands, and neighbors permanently protected land. This land is perfect for someone looking to make their home in a beautiful, quiet area. Asking price: \$168,750. Call 258-9797 for more information.

Public Participation – Step By Step!

The Token Creek Watershed Program has recently published a *Step By Step Guide to Facilitating Your Community's Public Participation Process.* This booklet will help you learn more about how local citizens came together for a "future search forum" to discover common watershed priorities and began working on them collaboratively. Farmers, developers, local government officials, educators, new suburban residents and long-standing landowners helped designed the forum. To order a copy, send \$5.00 to the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation, 303 S. Paterson St., Suite 6, Madison, WI 53703.

Calling All Extroverts

Do you want to become more involved in your local land trust? We're looking for a few goodwill ambassadors to sit at our booth during local community events, including the Farmers' Market this summer. This is a great way to meet people and spread the word about conservation.

Give us a call at 258-9797 if you're interested. We're also open to your ideas.

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

Special Gifts

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

DCNHF Wish List

- An overhead projector
- A microwave oven
- A TV/video monitor
- A fabric-covered display board
- Map holders
- A slide projector and screen

The DCNHF Cup of Gratitude Runneth Over

he Natural Heritage Foundation thanks our ever-growing cadre of colunteers and supporters, who generously lent us their time, talents and sometimes, their furniture:

- Board members and friends Jim Bricker, Emily Earley, Susan Fox, Larry Gleasman, Ruth Oppedahl (that's right!), Harriet Riley and Mike Slavney for serving as DCNHF goodwill ambassadors at Canoecopia,
- Eric Gans, of Dayton Row Consulting, for updating our membership database and general troubleshooting assistance.
- Greg Greenwald for designing eye-catching visuals to promote Token Creek Watershed Program events,
- Julie Hayward and Don D'Alessio for donating and delivering their computer desk,
- Cate Herrington of the Nature Conservancy, Mary Maher of Maher Writing and Creative Concepts, Ellen Rulseh of Wisconsin Independent Business, Inc., and Wendy Weisensel of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for donating their brain power to our communication planning efforts,
- Matt Nilsson, for writing newsletter articles quickly and proficiently,
- · Maggie Smith for revamping our membership database, and
- As always, Harriet Riley, for conscientiously keeping track of our membership records.

Long overdue gratitude goes to the businesses that provided edibles and drinkables for our open house last fall:

- Atlas Pasta (gone but not forgotten),
- · Breadsmith,
- Ground Zero Coffee House
- · New Glarus Brewery,
- · Willy St. Co-op, and
- · Wollersheim Winery.

Finally, thank you to the following businesses and organizations for their support:

- American Family Insurance for printing the Token Creek Step-by-Step Guide,
- Rutabaga and the University of Wisconsin Arboretum, for lending us display space at Canoecopia and the Natural Landscaping Conference,
- Johanna London and Michael Green of the law firm of Michael, Best & Friedrich, for assisting the Token Creek Watershed Program with incorporating,
- Bert Stitt and Associates for conducting a fundraising workshop for Natural Heritage Foundation and Token Creek Watershed Program board members, and
- Jeff Strobel, of Print Wave, for donating a portion of his services to the creation of this newsletter.

Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation

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

Membership Categories	Please send me information on: Send to:
☐ Individual \$25 ☐ Household \$35 ☐ Sustaining \$50	☐ Volunteering ☐ Token Creek Watershed Program ☐ How to make a gift through my will ☐ DCNHF 303 S. Paterson, Suite 6- Madison WI 53703
Donor \$100	☐ How to make a gift of real estate
NameAddress	Contributions are tax-deductible as provided for by law. Please make checks payable to the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation.
City/Zip	Thank you!

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