landscene

Natural Heritage Land Trust Dedicated to the conservation of natural areas and open space in Dane and the surrounding counties.

Attention Landowners or Friends of Landowners:

NHLT Introduces New Land Registry Program

Conservation begins with those closest to the land: landowners. The Natural Heritage Land Trust is introducing a Land Registry program as a way to better connect with people interested in protecting their land.

The Land Registry is essentially a handshake agreement that landowners make with the land trust, in which they agree to contact NHLT if they plan to sell their property or have an interest in an easement. NHLT provides information about land conservation options and can link landowners with knowledgeable naturalists if needed. The Registry may

not necessarily lead to the land trust purchasing the property, but it facilitates a relationship that could lead to an acquisition, an easement, or improved land management. In appreciation of their commitment, Registry members will be given a framed print of their local landscape painted by watercolorist John Jacoby.

The Natural Heritage Land Trust hopes to sign up 50 Land Registry members in our conservation priority areas, the Black Earth Creek, Token Creek, and Upper Sugar River Watersheds. Other property owners in Dane and surrounding counties may be included in the Registry program as well. If you or someone you know is a property owner and may like to join the Land Registry, please contact Kate or Danielle at 258-9797 for more information.

Sobering Statistics and Positive Change in Development

Sobering Statistics

According to a recent report by the American Farmland Trust (AFT)

(www.americanfarmland.org) the United States is losing "two acres of prime farmland every minute." Homes in rural areas are being built on large lots, and the resultant infrastructure of roads, highways, and shopping malls are replacing some of the country's best farmland. It is American's wasteful use of land, rather than economic growth that is the problem, the report states:

"From 1982-1997, the U.S. population grew by 17 percent, while urbanized land grew by 47 percent. Over the past 20 years, the average acreage per person for new housing almost doubled and since 1994, 10-plus acre housing lots have accounted for 55 percent of the land developed."

Positive Changes and Changing Tide Fortunately, how we do

housing development in Dane County has been changing. Many homebuilders are building on smaller lots and incorporating conservation elements into their development (see also Midland Builders in Stewardship Awards, page 5). New laws are also helping to control stormwater runoff (LandScene Summer 2002). However there is still much work to be done. According to Bill Preboski, Dane County Regional Planning commission, the sprawl we are facing in Dane County has improved in housing development more than it has changed in development by industry and the commercial services sector.

continued on page 2

Watershed: A Watershed consists of a river (or main water body) and the surrounding land region and water that drains into that river

Winter 2002

Priority Watersheds: Through careful conservation planning, the Natural Heritage Land Trust has identified three watersheds that are a priority for our conservation efforts. The Black Earth Creek, Token Creek, and Upper Sugar River Watersheds have been chosen as priorities based on factors such as present resources (like water quality) threats, ability to partner in protection efforts and inclusion in the Dane County Parks and Open Space plan.

Upper Sugar River Watershed: (170

square miles or 109,404 acres, pictured at left). Just southwest of Madison, the Upper Sugar River originates near Klevenville and meanders its way to Belleville, where it becomes the Lower Sugar River. The stream flows alongside the Military Ridge State Bike Trail, next to the historic Riley Tavern, and through scenic farmland. The entire river has been classified as an Exceptional Resource Water by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Local residents are doing a great job of improving land use practices to protect the resource. Towns in the watershed Pine Bluff Klevenville, Riley, Mt. Vernon, Paoli, Basco, Springdale. Villages/Cities: Madison, Fitchburg, Verona, Mt. Horeb, Belleville.

Black Earth Creek Watershed: (103 square miles or 65,920 acres, pictured at lower left). Driving west on Highway 14 you enter the rolling hills (unique because of their glacial history) of the Black Earth Creek Watershed which stretches from Cross Plains to Iowa

> County. The watershed has some of the richest soils for farmland and is in one of the fastest growing regions of Dane County. Portions of Black Earth Creek, above and below Cross Plains are classified by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters

respectively. The creek supports some of the best trout fishing in the nation. Groups in the area have been working to preserve some of these resources before they are gone. Towns in the watershed include: Middleton, Springfield, Cross Plains, Berry, Vermont, Black Earth, and Mazomanie. Villages: Black Earth, Cross Plains, Mazomanie. City: Middleton (on the southeast edge).

> Natural Heritage LAND TRUST



Natural Heritage

303 S. Paterson, Suite 6 Madison, WI 53703 608.258.9797 www.nhlt.org

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Laurie Lewis Robertson Landscene editor continued from page 1

A Message

As conservationists, it is important we recognize the need to work with development, in order to lessen its impact on natural areas and farmland by guiding it out of ecologically, historically, and scenically significant areas, standing behind Smart Growth and land use plans, and influencing the development that does occur, to be as conservation-minded as possible.

Working Together: A Developer's Prospective

The Natural Heritage Land Trust's Board of Directors has historically included representatives of the development and realestate community. David Simon of Don Simon Homes is a welcome addition (see page 3). David has this to say about conservation and housing development:

"As a community member and a builder, I place an emphasis on Smart Growth. It is projected by the Dane County Regional Planning Commission that from 2000-2010 Dane County will be adding another 38,400 people. To accommodate this growth, we're pursuing traditional neighborhood designs with smaller lots. The result is housing more people on less land and using less of our valuable resources. The designs are also friendly to alternative transportation, are interconnected, and include green space." He adds, "Don Simon Homes are also Wisconsin Energy Star and Green Built certified."

The road to "greener development" has not been easy. Simon comments, "It has taken a lot of partnering with local municipalities to be more creative in how subdivision and zoning ordinances are viewed. Our traditionally designed Grandview Commons and Smith's Crossing neighborhoods would not have been allowed under the zoning regulations as they existed." Another example of conservationminded development and this process is Marshall Erdman's Middleton Hills neighborhood (See New Development and New Urbanism: The Middleton Hills Case Study, listed under "publications" at www.erdman.com/mhills).

Simon noted he is looking forward to his participation as an NHLT board member, as well as continuing to be a leader in our local housing market, so that together we can provide better examples of how to accommodate growth needs, build great neighborhoods and conserve our local landscape.

Good News from the Town of Dunn Another One Dunn!

The Town of Dunn has purchased the development rights on a beautiful piece of Dane County landscape owned by Duane and Candice Swalheim. The 130 acre property consists of about 89 acres of farmland and 41 acres of wetland. Door Creek runs through the wetland. The Dane County Parks department will be purchasing the wetland area along with an additional 5 acres or so of upland. The development rights are co-held by the Town of Dunn, the Natural Heritage Land Trust, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)--Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Dane County. Eventual public access to the Dane County portion will be available off of highway MN.

Dunn gets Farm Protection Dollars

Congratulations to the Town of Dunn for their success in receiving a cost-sharing grant of \$851,850 from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service as a part of the Farmland Protection Program. The money will be used over the next two years to purchase agricultural easements on prime farmland in the town as part of the town's Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program.

Ambassadors of Community Conservation

Welcome New NHLT Board Members!

David Simon

David Simon grew up in Sun Prairie and took over as president of Don Simon Homes in the early 1990's. In 2001, Don Simon Homes was one of two winners out of 100,000 homebuilders nationwide to be awarded the

top Gold Award in total quality home building by the National

Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and the NAHB Research Center and **Professional Builder** Magazine. David was appointed by Kathleen Falk to the



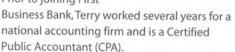
Citizen Land Use Commission in 1999, and has served on the Dane County Parks Commission grant selection committee and South Central **Regional Planning Commission Study**

Committee. David recently celebrated his 10th anniversary with his wife, Kate, and enjoys spending time with his three boys Davis, Ryan, and Max.

Terry Taylor

Terry Taylor is a vice president and commercial lender with First Business Bank. A

graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Terry and his wife Karen have lived in Madison for 6 years. Terry grew up in southwest Wisconsin and enjoys hunting, fishing camping, and canoeing. Prior to joining First



national accounting firm and is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).





Kate Wipperman

Welcome, Kate! Kate has been with the Natural Heritage Land Trust as an Intern since January, but officially joined staff in August as a Project Assistant. Kate's position was funded partially through

grants from the Madison Community Foundation and the Caviliere Foundation. Her job is to assist the Executive Director in coordinate land conservation projects, and assist in outreach and education to landowners in the Black Earth Creek and Upper Sugar River Watersheds. Kate will also be seeking further funding to continue her position. (Hint: NHLT will take donations to ensure the stability of this vital position for the organization and service to the community.)



Laurie L. Robertson

We'll miss you, Laurie! Laurie is leaving NHLT to take a short break while looking into a master's degree and planning a family with her husband Craig. Laurie has been with the land trust since January

2001 as an intern, volunteer, part-time staff

person, and full time Outreach/Development Coordinator. During her time at NHLT she facilitated the organization's name change, developed new materials, edited the newsletter, organized events, coordinated fundraising efforts and the membership drive, and coordinated the development of the Conservation and Stewardship Award Wall. She also trained and managed volunteers.

Aaron Christensen

Hello, Aaron! Aaron Christensen is NHLT's new Publications Intern. Aaron is busy as our new in-house photographer and graphic designer. He is currently creating publications and doing the layout

for LandScene. Aaron is a third-year undergraduate student in Geological Engineering at UW-Madison. He is also pursuing a Certificate in Environmental Studies. Originally from Oshkosh, Aaron enjoys photography, spending time outdoors and with his friends, and playing piano when he gets the chance.



Left to right: Heddy Grove, Suzanne Wade Darrell Bazell, and Mark Williams

NHLT Wins a Green Ribbon

The Community Open Space Partnership (COSP) presented ribbons to recipients of the first annual Green Ribbon Awards in a series of receptions around Wisconsin this fall. The awards honor the people and policies that help create a connected green infrastructure-a network of connected green spaces through and around urban areas. Mark Williams, President of the Natural Heritage Land Trust accepted a Green Ribbon in recognition for the Trust's work in the Token Creek watershed, particularly for fostering public participation at the Token Creek Watershed Forum held in 1997. Heddy Grove also received a Green Ribbon on behalf of the Token Creek Watershed Association.

Community Events

December 4, 7:30 to 8:30 PM, Mount Horeb Public Library. Blue Mounds Area Project Winter Lecture Series: Discovering and Sustaining Prairies and Savannas on Private Lands. www.bluemounds.org.

Decmber 9, Januray 13, and February 10, 5:00-6:30 PM, Friends of Lake Wingra monthly potluck dinners. Call 663-2838 or check website http://danenet.danenet.org/fowingra/

December 21, 7:00 to 8:30 PM, Aldo Leopold Nature Center. Winter Solstice Celebration (family program). Celebrate the beauty and mystery of winter by studying the history of winter solstice traditions throughout the ages. Take a hike as we discuss snow survival of plants and animals alike. Call 608-221-4038 for costs and to register.

January 2, 9:00 AM to noon, Aldo Leopold Nature Center. Winter Wonderland (school vacation day program for kids). Learn the tell-tale signs that wildlife truly does live here during the bitter winds of January. Call 608-221-4038 for costs and to register.

January 3, 9:00 AM to noon, Aldo Leopold Nature Center. Winter Through the Eyes of a Pioneer (school vacation day program for kids). Learn how early settlers survived the winter, using hands-on activities, games, stories and crafts. Call 608-221-4038 for costs and to register.

January 21, 7:30 to 8:30 PM, Mount Horeb Public Library. Blue Mounds Area Project Winter Lecture Series: Exploring Options to Restore Wisconsin's Degraded Oak Savannas. www.bluemounds.org.

January 24-25, Radisson Hotel, La Crosse. Prairie Wetlands: Restoring Connections, a conference on the interactions between prairies and wetlands and what those interactions mean for restoration and management, presented by the Wisconsin Wetlands Association and The Prairie Enthusiasts. Call (608) 250-9971 or see www.wiscwetlands.org.

February 19, 7:30 to 8:30 PM, Mount Horeb Public Library. Blue Mounds Area Project Winter Lecture Series: Effects of Land Use on Streams and Water Resource Quality. www.bluemounds.org. As guest speaker Neil Heinen mentioned at the Natural Heritage Land Trust's 2002 Stewardship Awards, the Wisconsin Ball Room at the Madison Concourse Hotel was filled with a "who's who" of conservationists. About 150 people gathered together to honor this year's stewardship winners. Among the honorees and audience alike were people who have given their time, money, or efforts --often all three, to conservation, contributing to the betterment of our society both locally and beyond.

In case you missed the wonderful event (don't miss it next year!), read on about this year's winners:

Individual: Although Walter R. Schiedegger passed away last year, his gift of \$500,000 to Dane County Parks means that all of us (as well as future generations) will enjoy parks and natural areas in Dane County for years to come. Special friends Agnes Schwoegler and Pat McGinnity accepted the award on Walter's behalf.

Youth: O'Keeffe Middle School teacher Suzanne Folberg and students Shanice Thompson and Jonah Hacker accepted the award on behalf of the school for environmental study. Students restored native species along the Yahara river, studied erosion control, water

Top Center: Agnes Schwoegler and Patricia McGinnity accepted the Individual Award on behalf of Walter Schiedegger. Center: Don Esposito shares a few words after accepting the Business Award for Midland Builders' work to preserve the Ice Age Trail. Below: O'keefe Middle School Student Shanice Thompson shares what she learned about the Yahara River.









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flow, and human impacts on our water resources. **Nonprofit:** The Upper Sugar River Watershed Association. Executive Director Frank Fetter and board member Linda Keen accepted the award for USRWA which has done a great job educating residents about the significance of their watershed and working to improve water quality and trout habitat in the Sugar River and its tributaries.

Business: Midland Builders. Executive Vice President Don Esposito accepted the award on behalf of Midland Builders for conservation-development. In creating its Ice Age Falls development, Midland honored the Ice Age Trail, working with them to help preserve a section of the trail adjacent to the development. Ice Age Falls includes green areas and every lot sold in the subdivision donates another \$100 to the trail.

Lifetime Achievement: Harold "Bud" Jordahl. With too many contributions to list, we can sum it up by saying that Bud has been a lifelong model for NHLT's motto of "conservation where you live." Both privately and professionally, there are few people who can match his commitment to community conservation.

Bottom Center: Frank Felter, Executive Director of the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association, receives the Nonprofit Award from Kevin Connors of the Dane County Land Conservation Department. Below: Bud Jordahl accepts the Lifetime Achievement Award.





vation Heroes

Stewardship Award Supporters

We sincerely appreciate the fine businesses and individuals who made the 2002 Stewardship Awards possible. The folks listed here came together in honor of conservation by providing the means for our celebration of local conservation heroes. With their help, the Natural Heritage Land Trust was also able to reach our \$15,000 fundraising goal! Thank You.

Business Underwriters

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Remember that you

are this universe

and this universe

is you

Joy Harjo (b. 1951), Native American (Creek) Writer

Teachers and Youth Leaders

Information about options for nature study and work parties is on our website, www.nhlt.org. Press the "Education" button.

Have you seen our website lately?

See www.nhlt.org for detailed information on the organization, conservation

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and giving information, options for conserving your land, events, archives, and more.

Let's Talk Conservation!

Is your church, synagogue, religious institution or other group interested in investigating issues related to the environment? Staff of the Natural Heritage Land Trust has been invited by different area churches to speak, provide information and attend fairs on the subject of conservation and related topics. If you have a group that may be interested, please call our office at 258-9797.

In the Spotlight: NHLT Member Daniel C. Dodge

Why did you become interested in our environment and conservation?

We will be periodically running a spotlight on an NHLT member so that you can share why the environment is important to you and how you became a conservationist. Whether you're a "birdwatcher," "hunter," "granola-type," "armchair environmentalist," none of the above or somewhere in between, you are an NHLT member (for some reason,) and we'd like to hear from you!

NHLT member Dan Dodge grew up in Connecticut, the oldest of five children. He is a Korean War Vet (Navy-ET3), a graduate of Michigan State University, and taught Accounting and Computer Systems at the college level. His hobbies include organic gardening, music, and woodworking. He and his wife Rita live in Verona. Here is what Dan has to say about his own realization about the importance of the environment and conservation:

"If you light a match, the heat from the flame will warm the whole world even if only a tiny bit." I heard this statement as a boy, but I didn't understand its truth until it hit me one day, 30 years after I had first heard it.

I sat on my front stoop to have a smoke and enjoy the solitude many times during the summer of 1965. I would toss the filter-butts into a space between the sidewalk and the stoop where I thought no one would notice. Soon, however, the space filled up until I finally remember thinking, "Those filters are not going to disappear. They will still be there years from now if I leave them there."

That's when I realized that, like the flame from the match, those cigarette butts were changing the world (for the worse) even if only a "tiny bit." I also realized that in general, I had

been living with little regard for our home, the earth, and the creatures that will come to inhabit it when we're gone.



Needless to say, I cleaned up my mess, and since then I've tried to leave whatever corner of the world I'm in a better place. I'm also a "Grampa Dan" now, which for me, adds a real sense of urgency to my quest.

Fortunately, there are individuals and organizations whose foresight and vision can lead us to a hopeful future if we take their message to heart and act on it. They point the way to responsible living, working for a world with clean water and air, and healthy habitats for critters that cannot survive without them.

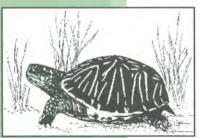
We have the means and the know-how to make a difference. All we need to do is find the will to repair the damage we have done and minimize the destructive impact we have on our world. I feel this is something of tremendous worth we all must do.

Ornate Box Turtle

(Terrapene ornata)

Endangered: State of Wisconsin

The Ornate Box Turtle is just 5 inches long and beautiful, with radiating yellow and brown stripes on its shell that appear to be hand painted. In Wisconsin, ornate box turtles' habitat consists of sandy soils, dry prairie and oak savannas. The species requires deep sandy soils to burrow into for winter hibernation. Humans are the most successful predator of the ornate box turtle. The turtles have



been snatched from the wild by pet suppliers and casual collectors, and their habitat has been fragmented by roads and development. Death by automobile is also a major culprit. Irrigation in the lower Wisconsin Flood Plain has resulted in the conversion of dry prairie into agriculture, another major factor in the Ornate's endangered status. To find out about turtle recovery and how you can help, see:

http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/factsheets/herps/Boxtur.htm

From the Department of Natural Resources Endangered Resources Website, Natural Heritage Inventory.

Invest in Tomorrow... Today.

Would you like to make a difference? There is no better time than now. Making a financial decision to enhance the quality of life in our community by protecting our natural heritage is a responsible choice. Your gift will have a lasting influence on our landscape and community.

Your contribution to the Natural Heritage Land Trust, no matter how small or large, is priceless. Making a gift to the Natural Heritage Land Trust means the important natural resources we depend on will be protected; children will have places to play and experience nature first hand, plants and animals will have room to flourish, and Wisconsin residents, --present and future, will be blessed with the legacy of the scenic natural beauty we all know and love.

The Natural Heritage Land Trust can accept all types of gifts and will work with you to realize your intention. For more information please see our website www.nhlt.org and click on the "Ways of Giving" button, or call the NHLT office at 258-9797. We'd be happy to speak with you or send you more information in the mail.

All art, all education, can be merely a supplement to nature.

Aristotle (384-322 B.C.)



Maddie Freyberg, age 7, created this nature scene depicting a rabbit and a tree on a hilside at sunrise.

Natural Heritage Land Trust

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ndividual Memberships:	Business Memberships:	Black Earth Creek Watershed		
Address		Please send information on: Volunteering How to make a gift through my will How to make a gift of real estate Land Registry Program Contributions are tax-deductible as provided for by law. Please make checks payable to the Natural Heritage Land Trust. Thank you Send to: Natural Heritage Land Trust, 303 S. Paterson, Suite 6,		
Would you like to receive	Madison, WI 53705			

Carly McGowan, age 5. of Waunakee, colored this wildlife scene. It includes a duck, a bird, and some fish in the water enjoying a sunny day amid the trees and flowers.

First Business Bank Michael Best & Friedrich Town and Country Engineering National Mutual Benefit Madison Concourse Hotel Madisound Speaker Components **Phoenix Restorations** Natural Resources Consulting Services Johnson Bank Johnson Block Unity Health Plans Hooper Construction Corp. Fontana Sport Specialties Home Environment Little Luxuries Tutto Pasta Cucina Italiana

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In Memoriam

Joyce Bartell (Sixteen year NHLT member)

Additional project contributions

NHLT Wishlist

Did you know that individuals and businesses can donate items to the Natural Heritage Land Trust, such as computers, office equipment, and other items, and receive a full tax write-off for the value of the item donated? You can! Please help your favorite local land trust by donating an item listed below. With the right tools and resources, we can be efficient conservationists!

- Newer-model desktop computer
- Newer-model laptop computer with projector for presentations
- Set of Field Guides to the Midwest
- Set of folding chairs

Brighten your year with a "Waters of Wisconsin Calendar"

You can purchase a **2003 Wisconsin** Waters mini-calendar filled with beautiful photographs of Wisconsin's lakes, rivers, wetlands, and fun facts about our water resources. Calendars cost \$6. They may be ordered by email at info@madisonenvironmental.com or by phone at (608) 280-0800.

The Best part: 10% of your purchase of the calendar will be donated to the Natural Heritage Land Trust. Make sure to let the Madison Environmental Group folks know you're a Natural Heritage Land Trust member. (Makes a great stocking stuffer!)

Website of interest:

Wisconsin Plant of the Week Receive a free weekly picture and factual information about a native Wisconsin plant via email each week. A great way to learn your local flora. Subscribe at: http://www.klines.org/joanne/

In-Kind Thanks

- Connectix Inc. for software
- · Peripheral Enhancements Inc. for computer memory

Special Thanks

· Neil Heinen for speaking at the Stewardship Awards

• Steve Born, Kevin Connors, Gail Epping, Bill Lunney and Christine Thisted for presenting at the Stewardship Awards

· Douglas Berry for volunteering his time

Thank Yous

 Aaron Christensen, Andrea Oliveira, and Bill Pielsticker for volunteering at the Stewardship Awards

- Kathy Brown and Qui Dang for their volunteer work
- Black Earth Creek Coalition for their efforts
- · Chrysalis for help with our mailings
- The Cornell Family for help with Wilke Prairie
- · Julie Hayward for donating the use of her art
- · Kevin Komarek for boosting staff morale
- · John Jacoby for donating the use of his art
- The Madison Concourse Hotel Staff
- · Mark Martin for help with Wilke Prairie
- · Publications Intern Aaron Christensen for doing a terrific job
- NHLT Board and past Board of Directors for their dedication

▶ Moving? Please let us know your new address! We'd love to keep in touch with you. Returned newsletters waste valuable paper and postage. ▶Not a member? If you are not a member of the Natural Heritage Land Trust and are receiving a complimentary copy of this newsletter, please consider joining NHLT today. We need your support. ▶Is there a student in your family? We have a new student membership category at the \$15 level. See the membership form at the end of the newsletter. ▶ Spilt coffee on your newsletter? Want to look up all the places you've helped to protect? Know someone who might be interested in conservation options for property they own? Check us out on our web site and tell your friends – www.nhlt.org

Natural Heritage

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