

landscene

A publication of the Natural Heritage Land Trust Winter 2008

PERMANENTLY
PROTECTED

238 more acres protected at Cherokee Marsh

At the end of June the Land Trust and the City of Madison completed the second phase of an ambitious effort to permanently protect land on the south side of the city's Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park. The acquisition of 238 acres was part of an agreement between the City of Madison and the landowner, Cherokee Park, Inc., on future land uses in the area; earlier this year, 23 acres were also protected as part of the agreement. The acquisition in June permanently protected the expanse of wetland on the east side of North Sherman Avenue, preserving the view of marsh and wildlife habitat for visitors approaching the main entrance to the park. It includes 80 acres within the Cherokee Marsh State Natural Area which was established to protect high-quality sedge meadow and wet prairie habitat.

According to Dennis Tiziani of Chero-

kee Park, Inc., the time was right to take advantage of a window of opportunity to protect the land. "A partnership was forged with the Land Trust, the city's parks department, and the county. From the standpoint of Cherokee Park, Inc. and for me personally, it has always been our position that the environment around us is worth protecting. For me [the outcome] was great, and for Cherokee Park, Inc. and our residents it was phenomenal."

Funding for the purchase came from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, the Dane County Conservation Fund, and the City of Madison. In addition, many neighbors of Cherokee Marsh have made generous donations to the Land Trust to make the acquisition possible. ■

Town of Dunn Easement Monitoring

In early November the Land Trust and the Town of Dunn completed the annual monitoring of the 19 conservation easements that are held jointly by the Land Trust and the Town. The easements, which place permanent restrictions on land to preserve productive soil and other natural resources, cover 2,542 acres of farmland, wooded areas, and wetlands. Monitoring is an annual opportunity to check-in with landowners and inspect the protected properties. No major issues were uncovered during the visits. The Land Trust thanks the landowners for their stewardship of these important properties. ■



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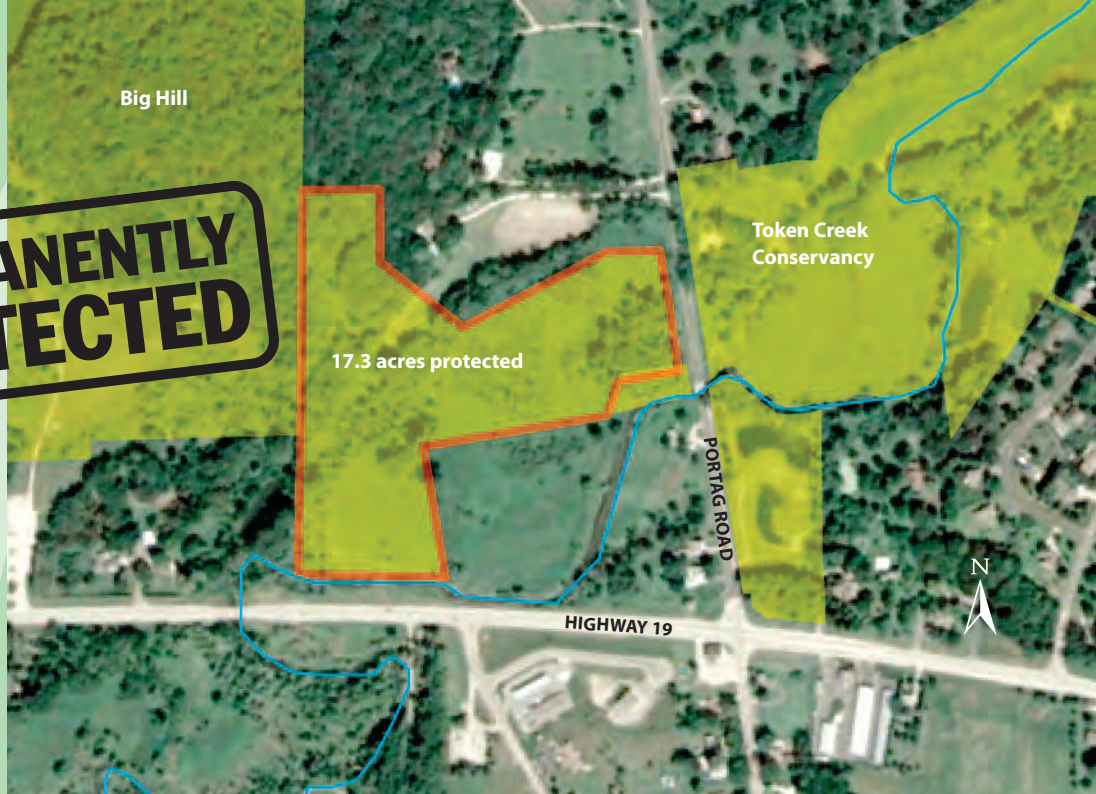
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The Natural Heritage Land Trust protects natural areas, wildlife habitat, working farms, healthy lakes and streams, and recreational land to provide a high quality of life in the Dane County region.

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More land protected at Token Creek

The Land Trust recently helped the Town of Windsor obtain \$96,000 in matching funds from the Dane County Conservation Fund and the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program to add 17.3 acres to the town's conservancy areas along Token Creek. Token Creek is a major source of fresh water for Cherokee Marsh and the Yahara Lakes and is the only cold water fishery in the northeast part of Dane County.

The land acquisition includes 14 acres of wetland and more than 500 feet of Token Creek. The property is adjacent to a conservation easement held by the Land Trust along Token Creek. It also connects the Big Hill Environmental Learning Center (jointly owned by the DeForest Area School District and the Town of Windsor) with the Town's Token Creek Park and Culver Conservancy. ■

Bradshaw-Knight Foundation Challenge Grant Update

On May 1st, the Bradshaw-Knight Foundation awarded a \$15,000 challenge grant to the Natural Heritage Land Trust in honor of its 25th anniversary. The purpose of the grant is to encourage more people to support land conservation in and around Dane County. As of November 25th, the Land Trust has raised \$11,659 toward the \$15,000 goal! In total, 173 members have participated in the Bradshaw-Knight Foundation challenge: 90 members have increased their dues donations and 83 new members have joined the Land Trust. Thank you to everyone who has taken advantage of the Bradshaw-Knight Foundation matching opportunity. We are well on our way to meeting the challenge grant goals.

Special thanks to Mike and Linda Slavney for increasing their President's Circle membership gift from \$1,000 to \$2,500. This leadership gift was made in memory of Herschel Rotter. The Slavneys' generosity qualifies the Land Trust for a \$1,500 match from the Bradshaw-Knight Foundation. Mike Slavney is a past president of the Natural Heritage Land Trust.

Go to www.nhlt.org and check on our progress toward the \$15,000 goal. ■

2008 Member Survey Results Are In

The Land Trust conducted a membership survey in August. Many thanks to the over 150 members who participated. Through the survey we learned that members support the Natural Heritage Land Trust primarily because *the Land Trust permanently protects cherished local lands.*

When asked, “How would you describe the Land Trust to a friend?” answers included:

“A conservation organization that works with local residents to protect natural areas near their homes.”

“One of the few organizations willing to work with land owners to preserve land for future generations.”

“Similar goals as The Nature Conservancy, but on a local level.”

As you can see from some of these quotes, the word “local” appeared repeatedly in the survey responses. They provide validation that members understand that the Natural Heritage Land Trust is a local organization whose mission is to permanently protect working farms, recreation areas, and natural areas in the Dane County region. We used input from current members to write a series of new member prospect letters that were mailed on October 15th.

Thanks to everyone who participated in detailed interviews to flesh out the member survey topics: Johanna Alex, Vicki Anderson, Cal DeWitt, Jeff Endres, Sharon Gaskill, Brad Glass, Nicole Staskowski, David Rice, Jerry Schwoch, Connie Threinen, and Bill Weber. Also, thanks to the Land Trust members who participated in focus groups: Pam Foster Felt, Rob Gottschalk, David Rice, Jeff Strobel, Mariana Weinhold, Gary Werner, and Carla Wright.

Funding for the communications research was provided by the Bradshaw-Knight Foundation. ■

Patrick Marsh Savanna Restoration

26 volunteers put in more than 100 hours in September and October removing non-native invasive buckthorn shrubs and thinning saplings that are crowding out the native oaks in the savanna at Patrick Marsh. A crew from Michler and Brown, LLC operated chain saws to make the work go faster.



PROFILE: Jim Welsh, Executive Director



Came to the Natural Heritage Land Trust: 2003

Previous work experience: The Nature Conservancy in Michigan, California, and Wisconsin, most recently in the Baraboo Hills of Sauk and Columbia counties. 16 years of experience in land conservation and land management.

Education: bachelor's degree in environmental studies from Dickinson

College, master's degree in natural resources policy from the University of Michigan, and master's degree in land resources from the University of Wisconsin-Madison
Conservation focus: helping communities meet their goals for conserving the land and water that defines who they are.

Jim's vision for the Land Trust: we inspire people and communities to conserve the most important land and water in our community.

What his staff says: Jim is dedicated to land conservation. He also likes to get out and enjoy our natural resources. Jim likes kayaking, biking, and gardening.

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Conservation where you live

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You helped:

- Protect 238 acres at Cherokee Marsh
- Protect 17 acres at Token Creek
- Restore stream bank and savanna habitat at Patrick Marsh and Black Earth Creek

Thank You

- Crystal Buck for GIS training
- Shirley Droste for recording the survey results
- Marty Pfeiffer for assessing photo management software
- Mario Quintana for photos of Cherokee Marsh and Patrick Marsh
- Pat Sammatro and Brenda Haskins for helping with the year-end appeal
- Mary Schwoch and Marty Pfeiffer for analyzing the surveys
- Kevin St. Angel for posting the member survey online and creating the challenge grant thermometer
- Donna Thomas for help with fundraising
- The 30 volunteers who came to the Patrick Marsh and Black Earth Creek work parties this fall.

Help Us Recruit New Members by 12/31/08

According to the recent member survey, approximately 40% of members learned about the Natural Heritage Land Trust from a friend. When you are done reading this newsletter please pass it on to someone you know.

Now is a great time to join! Our goal is 100 new members by year end.

Please fill out this form and return it to Natural Heritage Land Trust, 303 S. Paterson St., Suite 6, Madison, WI 53703.
If you prefer to donate online, go to www.nhlt.org.

\$35 \$60 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other _____

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To make a credit card donation by phone, please call 608-258-9797. Contributions are tax-deductible as provided for by law.