

# landscene

Spring 2010

Natural Heritage  
LAND TRUST

PERMANENTLY  
PROTECTED

The Wildt property is now permanently protected as part of the Wisconsin River landscape of western Dane County.

## More land protected at Mazomanie Wildlife Area

At the end of December, the Land Trust permanently protected a 40-acre property northwest of Mazomanie. The acquisition fills a hole in the largest contiguous block of protected land in Dane County – over 3,500 acres and 3 ½ miles of Wisconsin River shoreline. The landscape is a mosaic of floodplain forests, oak barrens, grasslands, and farm fields that epitomizes the lower Wisconsin River valley.

The 40 acres belonged to Wayne and Mae Wildt of Mazomanie. Wayne is a retired customer service representative with the VA hospital in Madison who moved to the Mazomanie area in the early 1970's. Wayne bought the land in 1992 for turkey hunting, but quickly realized it had other benefits as well. The land became a much needed escape from a job that could be stressful.

Wayne fell in love with the property and spent as much time as possible there. He worked with Dane County to establish a pond and a scrape to attract

waterfowl. He planted native wildflowers and built bluebird boxes. The wildlife came: cranes, deer, foxes, and mink. Wayne says, "I've seen just about everything on the land but bears."

Wayne knew from the beginning that he wanted to permanently protect the land even after it was no longer his. His strong land ethic and sense of stewardship led him to sell the land to the Natural Heritage Land Trust. Now, future generations will forever enjoy the land that stole Wayne's heart.

**The 40-acre property is adjacent to the 870-acre acquisition completed by the Land Trust and Dane County in 2008.** The Land Trust was able to purchase the Wildt property with funding from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. It will be donated to the State of Wisconsin and managed as part of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway for public hunting and hiking. ■

ROBERT FARRELL



1,300 feet of Hook Lake shoreline will never be developed thanks to the Madison Retriever Club.

## Discover Hook Lake Thursday, June 24

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Come join us and explore one of Dane County's highest quality wetlands—Hook Lake in the Town of Dunn. You will see a wide variety of vegetation and explore an oak savanna. Land Trust Executive Director Jim Welsh will provide a behind-the-scenes account of how the Madison Retriever Club used a conservation easement last year to permanently protect its 20-acre property on Hook Lake while keeping it in private ownership and on the tax rolls.

Please wear sturdy shoes that can get wet. Bring insect repellent and water. Children over the age of 12 are welcome with adult supervision. The field trip will take place rain or shine except in extreme conditions.

This outing is free of charge, but space is limited and pre-registration is required.

To register or learn more, please contact Martha Frey at [martha@nhlt.org](mailto:martha@nhlt.org) or 258-9797.

Sign-up Today!

Special thanks to Becker Law Office, S.C. for sponsoring the field trip to Hook Lake.

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MARIO QUINTANA

## Local Conservation. Local Leaders.

Thank you to our President's Circle members for providing the strong and steady financial support the Natural Heritage Land Trust needs to permanently protect the mosaic of landscapes we love in and around Dane County.

### \$10,000 - \$20,000

Anonymous

### \$5,000 - \$9,999

Martha Lound  
Jim & Rumi O'Brien

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Sarah and Mark McGuire  
Natural Resources Consulting, Inc  
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David & Katie Simon  
Jeffrey Strobel  
Sun Prairie Rotary Foundation  
Vandewalle & Associates  
Marc Vitale and Darcy Kind  
Bill & Lorette Wambach  
Frank & Mariana Weinhold  
Bill & Win Welsh  
Jim Welsh  
Wheeler, Van Sickle & Anderson  
Rolf & Susan Wulfsberg

## Save the date: Legacy Circle Party

**Tuesday, September 14, 2010, 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

The Legacy Circle is a group for people who choose to leave a land legacy by remembering the Natural Heritage Land Trust in a will or through other planned gifts.

## Conservation Easement Endowment Fund Established

The Natural Heritage Land Trust has established its third permanent endowment at the Madison Community Foundation. The purpose of this endowment is to ensure that we will always have the financial resources to monitor and uphold in perpetuity the conservation easements granted to us on farmland, forests, and wetlands in and around Dane County. Gifts to the fund can be made directly to the Madison Community Foundation. For information about making a gift, please contact Paul Houseman, Donor Relations Manager, Madison Community Foundation, P.O. Box 5010 Madison, WI 53705, 232-1763 or phouseman@madisoncommunityfoundation.org. ■

## 2009 Year End Fundraising Drive Results

The results are in! Our 2009 year-end fundraising drive was a success: our goal was \$7,000 and we raised \$7,505. Eighty-four generous members helped us reach our goal. Thank you to all!

## More communities working to preserve farmland

Farmland in the Dane County region is among the most productive in the state and nation and a local economic powerhouse. As a land use, agriculture defines our region and creates many of the landscapes we cherish. But from 1980 to 2000, 37,000 acres of farmland were lost in Dane County to development across our cities, villages, and towns, an area nearly four times the size of Lake Mendota.

Building on our farmland protection partnership with the Town of Dunn (which is now 12 years old and has resulted in the permanent protection of 20 farms), other communities are seeking out our expertise in farmland protection. The Natural Heritage Land Trust now assists four communities in their efforts to protect important working farmland, including the Towns of Windsor and Springfield in Dane County, and Jefferson County.

Thanks to the state's new Working Lands Initiative grant program for the purchase

of agricultural conservation easements, more communities will be able to achieve their goals of protecting the farmland. Starting this summer, the state's program will award grants to local governments and qualified non-profit organizations like the Natural Heritage Land Trust for up to 50% of the cost of purchasing permanent agricultural conservation easements. ■

**Pasque flowers are a sign of spring at Westport Drumlin State Natural Area near Waunakee. The Natural Heritage Land Trust has permanently protected 73 acres there and has two more projects in the works, totaling another 130 acres.**

MARIO QUINTANA





JEFFREY STROBEL

Mario Quintana at Westport Drumlin

## Profile of Mario Quintana

If you loved one of the photographs in our recent newsletters or annual reports, there is a good chance it was taken by Mario Quintana. Mario has been volunteering his time and photographic artistry to the Land Trust for several years. From gorgeous sunrises over Patrick Marsh to sweeping vistas of the Black Earth Creek valley, Mario has shown he has a master's eye for what he calls "conservation photography" – documenting special places as a way of preserving them.

A midwestern boy with degrees in ecology and photography, Mario has had a passion for nature photography since high school. But making ends meet as a full-time nature photographer is tough, so Mario took to teaching the art to others. He is an instructor at MATC and puts his avocation of conservation photography to work for organizations like the Natural Heritage Land Trust because he wants to make a difference.

In our work it is critical to communicate the importance of protecting landscapes. Bringing those landscapes to life through photographs is what Mario has done for the Land Trust, masterfully. ■

### Thank yous:

- Eileen Dresser, Shirley Droste, Harriet Riley, and Pat Sammataro for assisting with the 2009 year-end fundraising drive
- Kevin St. Angel for improving our website
- Aaron Stephenson and Tim Tielens for our web mapping project

### Help us Preserve Our Rich Natural Heritage for Future Generations If you are not already member, please join with us today!

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](http://www.nhlt.org).*

\$45    \$60    \$100    \$250    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.



MICHAEL MCDOWELL

American Redstart: a likely bird at Hickory Hill

## Bird Walk at Hickory Hill

Followed by Breakfast at Crossroads Coffeehouse  
Saturday, May 8, 8:00 – 10:00 am

Grab your binoculars and join us for the Land Trust's spring bird walk at Hickory Hill Conservancy Park in Cross Plains. The Land Trust's Conservation Specialist Caleb Pourchot will help us identify birds. We will be on the lookout for various warblers and other neotropical migrants. Former Hickory Hill landowner Lee Swanson will share how Hickory Hill was conserved and is now part of the Ice Age Trail.

Please wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots. Bring binoculars and water. The field trip will take place rain or shine except in extreme conditions. Afterwards, several of us will head to the nearby Crossroads Coffeehouse for a late breakfast—please join us. The field trip is free of charge, but space is limited and pre-registration is required.

To register or learn more, please contact Martha Frey at [martha@nhlt.org](mailto:martha@nhlt.org) or 258-9797.

Sign-up Today!

Special thanks to State Bank of Cross Plains for sponsoring the Hickory Hill bird walk. ■



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**YOU HAVE HELPED  
PERMANENTLY PROTECT  
6,381 ACRES OF CHERISHED  
LOCAL LAND SINCE 1983**

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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## Goodbye Kate

Kate Wiperman left the Land Trust in March. In her nearly eight years as our Conservation Specialist Kate permanently protected great places in the Black Earth Creek valley like Hickory Hill Conservancy Park and the Sunnyside Natural Resource Area.

**Why are you leaving the Land Trust?** I am embarking on a new adventure—going back to school for nursing. I have come to recognize that my favorite parts of working at the Land Trust are getting to know people and helping people; two things I look forward to doing more of as a nurse.

**What have you learned from working at the Land Trust?** Much more than I could say here! Land protection projects are always more complicated than I think they will be, our landowners and members are very generous, and I am blessed to live in and get to explore so much of beautiful Dane County.

**From your perspective what makes the Land Trust unique?** The Land Trust's small town feel makes it unique—from meeting with landowners around the kitchen table, to the way we get to know our members, to our small staff—and I will miss working for an organization that is so accessible.

**What are your hopes for the Land Trust?** I hope that the Land Trust builds on its land protection momentum. I envision more permanently protected farmland in Dane and Jefferson Counties. I envision more additions to great places like Brooklyn State Wildlife Area and Cherokee Marsh. And I hope that our loyal members continue to support our efforts.