

landscene

Summer 2013

Natural Heritage
LAND TRUST

PERMANENTLY
PROTECTED

418 acres protected along the Sugar River

In western Dane County just west of Verona, the Sugar River navigates its way through a pastoral landscape of farms and high-quality wetlands. It continues southward on a journey through Wisconsin and into Illinois where it meets the Pecatonica River.

The Sugar River is justly popular with anglers and paddlers. The DNR classifies the river as a Class II trout stream and an Exceptional Water Resource between its head-



For more information about the two recent acquisitions along the Sugar River, visit goo.gl/ZAXdR.

nearly 2,000 feet of shoreline on the river and will be kept in its natural state to provide opportunities for bird watching, hiking, fishing, and other outdoor activities. This land is now part of the Village's **Lake Belle View park**.

In May, Natural Heritage Land Trust partnered with Dane County to purchase **382 acres** of land along the river between Verona and Paoli. This large parcel, which includes a remarkable 2 ½ mile stretch of the river, was made available for conservation by the Bruce Company of Middleton. Dane County will open the property—to be known as the **Sugar River Wildlife Area**—to the public for hiking, canoeing, fishing, and hunting. In the next few years the county will create canoe put-ins, parking areas, and trails on the property—it will be one of the county's premier places to enjoy the outdoors.

"We're elated to make this land available for everyone to enjoy," said Bliss Nicholson, CEO of the Bruce Company. "The Sugar River and this place are so special that preserving them for the future is something we're proud to be a part of."

Thanks go to the landowners that sold us these properties for conservation. Funding to complete these projects was provided by the Dane County Conservation Fund, the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, the Wisconsin Land Fund of the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation, and the members of Natural Heritage Land Trust. ■

waters, near Mount Horeb, and Belleville. Travelers on the Military Ridge State Trail between Verona and Mount Horeb follow the path of the river for much of the way and traverse the Sugar River Wetlands State Natural Area which harbors many rare plants and animals. Everyone who enjoys the river has much to celebrate because of two significant land conservation projects Natural Heritage Land Trust and its partners completed this year.

In January, in partnership with the Village of Belleville, we purchased **36 acres** of undeveloped woods and wetland along the Sugar River from Donald Cosgrove. The property has



REMEMBERING Martha Lound

On October 23, 2012, Martha Lound, a friend of nature, passed away. She was a very generous person. In her will, Martha Lound made important gifts to local conservation organizations, including Natural Heritage Land Trust.

Martha appreciated nature in her own backyard. For many years, Martha and her husband Roy lived in a home near the UW Arboretum in Madison. Later in life, she moved to Oregon and lived near wetlands. Martha believed that we live in an area that is well worth protecting.

Former board member Gene Roark got to know Martha Lound on bird watching field trips. "She was one of the best. Dedicated bird watchers seem to make the connection between good habitat and healthy bird populations. Martha Lound made that connection and became a dedicated environmentalist. She knew

Martha Lound Bequest

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30 years

Take root. Grow deep.
Look to the future.

Black Hawk Ridge Trail Run

Sunday, October 27, 2013 – 8k and 16k

Natural Heritage Land Trust will once again be the major beneficiary of the Black Hawk Ridge Trail Run. Near Sauk City, the 8k and 16k courses take runners through a restored prairie, hardwood forest, and pine plantation with spectacular views of the Wisconsin River. Registration will start in early September (wisconsintrailruns.com) and is limited to 300 runners. Our thanks to James Berbee and Karen Walsh for sponsoring the 2013 Black Hawk Ridge Trail Run.

We're looking for 10 volunteers to help out at the run on Sunday, October 27, 2013. Volunteer jobs include parking, course direction, and water stations. Please contact Heidi at (608) 258-9797 or heidi@nhlt.org if you'd like to volunteer. ■

"Black Hawk is a great place to run, especially in the fall. More than that, the conservation of this property provides recreation for everyone from hikers to hunters to horseback riders. It also preserves a significant Wisconsin historical site and protects a landscape feature that can be seen for miles. We're happy to be partnering with Natural Heritage Land Trust to support more land protection at places like Black Hawk Ridge." —Sherren Clark, Trail Run Organizer and Natural Heritage Land Trust member



ALTHEA DOTZOUR

The George Lucey family celebrates with Conservation Specialist Caleb Pourchot and former NHLT Conservation Specialist Kate Wipparman. From left to right: Dave Lucey, Kate Wipparman, Caleb Pourchot, Sheila Muehlenbruch, and Conservation Easement Land Owner George Lucey.

Darcy Kind read an excerpt from Wendell Berry's poem "The Wild Geese". Liz Middleton, a member for 27 years, said that she has made contributions to Natural Heritage Land Trust every year since 1986 because "buying land costs money".

Together we raised \$25,500 (net proceeds) at the 30th anniversary celebration to advance vital land conservation in Dane County and the surrounding area. ■

30th Anniversary Celebration

If you came to the 30th anniversary celebration at Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery on April 25, 2013, you know that a good time was had by all. The 230 members and supporters in attendance remembered our beginnings, honored long-time members, and celebrated our conservation successes.

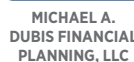
Former board member Walt Meanwell told a story about our first project, Wally Bauman Woods. Town of Dunn Plan Commission member Steve Greb recalled many successes in the Town of Dunn's land preservation program. George Lucey and his son Dave Lucey recounted how their family permanently protected their 178-acre farm in the Town of Black Earth with a conservation easement. Board Vice President

Thank You to our 30th Anniversary Sponsors

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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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A Tax-Smart Way of Giving



Jim and Rumi O'Brien are tax-smart supporters of Natural Heritage Land Trust. They use their IRA to advance vital land conservation. By directing the transfer of part of their annual required IRA minimum distribution to Natural Heritage Land Trust, they avoid paying income tax on that amount. And, as a result, they maximize the size of their gift.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006, extended through **December 31, 2013**, provides a way for IRA holders 70 and a half years or older to stretch their charitable giving to the limit. IRA's are built with pre-tax dollars, so any amount you withdraw for personal use is taxable. The tax rate varies according to your current income and other factors. Elect to give your withdrawal to a non-profit and your

tax obligation disappears entirely: all of the IRA funds, including the federal government's portion, goes to the non-profit. This idea works particularly well if you currently use the "standard deduction" on your federal tax return. Note: in states that have an income tax, such as Wisconsin, this strategy may also reduce your state taxable income.

"If you are in the 20% tax bracket, you could withdraw \$1,000 and pocket \$800 for personal use. Choose Natural Heritage Land Trust as your recipient and the entire \$1,000 supports land preservation in Dane County and beyond," said Natural Heritage Land Trust member Jim O'Brien.

You can do this quite simply. Here's how:

Step 1: Write a letter to your IRA trustee to initiate the IRA direct transfer. The letter should include the following information: a) Natural Heritage Land Trust, Inc., 303 S. Paterson St., Suite 6, Madison, WI 53703 b) NHLT Tax identification number: 39-1452825 c) Contribution Amount.

Step 2: Contact Natural Heritage Land Trust Executive Director Jim Welsh or Membership Director Martha Frey and tell one of them that you named Natural Heritage Land Trust as a beneficiary of your IRA distribution for 2013.

Step 3: Natural Heritage Land Trust sends you an acknowledgement of your contribution.

"Similar to other ways of giving, the IRA charitable rollover gives us a sense of satisfaction that we are helping a worthy organization. In addition, we like using the IRA charitable rollover because it is simple to implement and it stretches our charitable contribution by using pre-tax dollars," said Jim O'Brien.

December 31, 2013 will be here in no time. You may want to contact your IRA trustee and initiate an IRA charitable rollover to Natural Heritage Land Trust today.

This article is not intended to provide complete tax advice. Readers seeking advice on specific tax matters should conduct their own due diligence and seek advice from a qualified tax practitioner. ■

Martha Lound Bequest *continued from page 1*

that Natural Heritage Land Trust was working to protect bird habitat at many of its project areas," said Roark.

Martha supported many local conservation organizations. She served as president of Madison Audubon Society for one term, starting in 1961. Martha and Roy prepared seasonal Field Notes for Wisconsin Society for Ornithology's quarterly journal, The Passenger Pigeon, for the years 1956 and 1957, continued doing the summer and winter seasons in 1958, and then the summer season through 1961. Martha was a President's Circle member of Natural Heritage Land Trust from 2005 until 2012. We are grateful for her support of local conservation.

In June 2013, Gene Nelson, whose late wife Marion was Martha Lound's niece, shared remembrances with Natural Heritage Land Trust Membership Director Martha Frey.

Martha: What are some of your impressions of Martha?

Gene: Martha appreciated natural resources. She was an avid birdwatcher. With binoculars in hand, Martha and Roy visited 71 counties in Wisconsin. They also traveled to all 50 states and all seven continents, often for bird watching.

Martha: Can you tell me about Martha's early years?

Gene: In 1911 Martha was born on the Zingg family farm in Verona. Her parents had immigrated to the United States from Switzerland in 1893. Martha graduated as the valedictorian of Verona High School in 1929. She attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison and earned a bachelor's degree (1933) in history and master's degree (1936) in education.

Martha: What was Martha's career?

Gene: Shortly after graduation, Martha joined the newly formed State of Wisconsin unemployment compensation agency. She worked hard and moved up in the organization. After 32 years, Martha retired from the agency.

Martha: What other impressions of Martha do you have?

Gene: Martha knew how to manage her money. Living through the Great Depression, Martha learned the value of a dime. She and Roy started investing early in individual stocks. For example, they bought shares of Texas Instruments and later reaped the benefits of this investment.

Martha: How would you describe Martha's personality?

Gene: Martha had her own mind. You better be on your toes when you talked to Martha.

The board and staff of Natural Heritage Land Trust are grateful to Martha Lound for her love of nature and her generosity. ■

What's Inside

- 418 acres protected on Sugar River
- Black Hawk Trail Run set for October 27th
- 30th anniversary celebrated



Natural Heritage
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Conservation where you live

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Prairie Partners summer crew



Our 2013 Prairie Partners crew has been hard at work restoring prairie and savanna habitat at Westport Drumlin each Tuesday since May 21st. This year's crew is (left to right) Adam Trotz, Sarah Gleason, Tony Abate, Ashley Vande Voort, Jacob Zeldin. The crew's work is supported by our 2013 Prairie Partners sponsors: Nancy & Lou Bruch, Doug & Sherry Caves, Jon & Peggy Traver, and Don & Joanne Tierney.

ALTHEA DOTZOUR



Board President Willi Van Haren and Gail Van Haren mark Natural Heritage Land Trust's 30 years of local land conservation with Aldo Leopold at the 30th Anniversary celebration held at Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery on April 25, 2013.

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