

# landscene

Summer 2014

Natural Heritage  
LAND TRUST

PERMANENTLY  
PROTECTED

## Historic Portage Landscape Permanently Protected

Anne Vravick, Jim Welsh, Destinee Udelhoven, and Kevin Thusius stand in front of the Historic Indian Agency House

MARIO QUINTANA

In April, Natural Heritage Land Trust, working with The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Wisconsin and Ice Age Trail Alliance, finalized protection of the natural areas that surround a restored landmark building. The conservation easement, held by Natural Heritage Land Trust, permanently protects 161 acres of an important environmental corridor bounded by the Fox River and the Portage Canal on the east side of the City of Portage in Columbia County.

The property is the location of the Historic Indian Agency House that dates to before Wisconsin became a state. The United States Government built the house for U.S. Agent to the Ho-Chunk Nation John Harris Kinzie and his wife Juliette Magill Kinzie. Juliette chronicled their time at the Agency House, interactions with members of the Ho-Chunk Nation, and the natural beauty of the landscape. Her book, *Wau-Bun, The Early Day in the Northwest*, was first published in 1856.

Ice Age Trail Alliance concurrently purchased 46 acres on the south side of the canal opposite the restored landmark, permanently protecting a segment of the Ice Age Trail.

The land under the Natural Heritage Land Trust easement, still owned by the Colonial Dames and permanently protected from development, includes partially forested uplands, wetlands, and stretches of prairie and field. Plans for the property include habitat restoration and providing access for the public to hike, fish, and cross-country ski. "Here we were able to preserve some of our state's rich natural history around a building that tells a significant story about the human history of Wisconsin," explained Jim Welsh, Natural Heritage Land Trust Executive Director.

Anne Vravick, President of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Wisconsin, commented, **"We are so thankful to Natural Heritage Land Trust**



KATHLEEN MCGWIN

An older snapshot of the tamarack trees and wetlands along the Fox River just west of the Muir family farm.

## John Muir Farm Update

We are moving forward with the acquisition of part of the original John Muir family farm in southern Marquette County, planning to wrap up the purchase this fall. This 198-acre acquisition includes 38 acres of the original Muir farm. It was in the beautiful landscape around Ennis Lake (called Fountain Lake by the Muirs) where a young John Muir, the future father of our National Park System, explored the natural world. Here he learned to love the abundance and beauty of wilderness and started down the path to becoming the vital voice in the movement to protect it. **If you would like email updates about this project, and an invitation to the dedication ceremony this spring, please send your email address to [Heidi@nhlt.org](mailto:Heidi@nhlt.org).** See page 3 for the list of people who have already contributed to this project. ■

continued on page 2

**and the Ice Age Trail Alliance for uniting with us to ensure that this beautiful property remains protected from development and open to the public to enjoy the wildlife, wetlands, and prairies.** We could not have done this without them. But it would all be pointless if it weren't for those Colonial Dames who had the foresight to purchase this land 50+ years ago. It will be exciting to begin the process of restoring the land to its early 19th-century historical state."

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and members of Natural Heritage Land Trust funded the purchase of the conservation easement, with invaluable assistance from Ice Age Trail Alliance. ■



Please remember Natural Heritage Land Trust in your will or estate plan.



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.

## Accreditation Comments Welcome

**N**atural Heritage Land Trust is pleased to announce it is seeking accreditation as a conservation organization that meets national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. A public comment period is now open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, will conduct an extensive review of our application, policies and programs. "Earning the accreditation seal will validate the public's trust that our land trust meets the highest standards," said Willi Van Haren, Board President.

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how Natural Heritage Land Trust complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/tips-and-tools/indicator-practices>.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit [www.landtrustaccreditation.org](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org), or email your comment to [info@landtrustaccreditation.org](mailto:info@landtrustaccreditation.org). Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Comments on Natural Heritage Land Trust's application will be most useful by December 1, 2014. ■

## Support local land conservation through workplace giving

**S**tarting this fall, employees of state government (including UW System employees), Dane County, City of Madison, Madison Metro School District, Monona School District, and Madison College, can donate to Natural Heritage Land Trust through EarthShare Wisconsin in their workplace giving campaigns, primarily through payroll contributions.

Giving to Natural Heritage Land Trust through EarthShare Wisconsin is an easy way to support permanent land conservation here in the Dane County region. EarthShare Wisconsin's goal is to be the public's trusted and proven way to support Wisconsin's and the nation's most respected environmental and conservation charities at work. Earthshare has earned the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance accreditation.

"We are very happy to have Natural Heritage Land Trust as a member of EarthShare Wisconsin," said Managing Director Darren Blankenship. "They have been a very effective organization for many years protecting vital lands, lakes, and streams in Dane County and beyond. That is why my wife and I have been longtime members of the organization."

If you would like more information about EarthShare Wisconsin and how they can be an option in your workplace giving campaign, please contact managing director Darren Blankenship at [Darren@earthshare.org](mailto:Darren@earthshare.org) or (608) 274-1173. ■



### President

William Van Haren,  
Blue Mounds

### Vice President

Jediah White, Madison

### Treasurer

Mariana Weinhold,  
Madison

### Secretary

Darcy Kind, Madison

### Directors

Vicki Elkin, Madison  
Brenda Haskins, Monona  
Tom Krauskopf, Madison  
Renee Lauber, Madison  
Patricia Leavenworth,  
Mount Horeb  
Barry Perkel, Madison  
Glenn Reinl, Madison  
Kevin B. Shelley, Deerfield

### Past Presidents

Johanna J. Allex  
Norman C. Anderson  
John B. Hutchinson  
William G. Lunney  
Jean D. Meanwell  
Kathy F. Pielsticker  
Michael A. Slavney  
Mark B. Williams  
Carla Wright

### Executive Director

Jim Welsh

### Membership Director

Martha Frey

### Conservation Specialist

Caleb Pourchot

### Membership and Outreach Manager

Heidi Habeger





## Black Hawk Ridge Trail Run

Sunday, October 26, 2014 – 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 widely varied landscape with views of the Wisconsin River valley. Registration will start in early September ([wisconsintrailruns.com](http://wisconsintrailruns.com)) and is limited to 300 runners. Our thanks to James Berbee and Karen Walsh for being the lead sponsor for the second year in a row. This is a fun event that would not be possible without the help of many volunteers. We are looking for ten volunteers to help with parking, course direction, and water stations. Please contact Heidi at (608) 258-9797 or [heidi@nhlt.org](mailto:heidi@nhlt.org) if you'd like to volunteer. ■

## Monthly Giving Does More

“When I looked for a way to do more for land conservation, I asked about monthly giving,” says past Board President Johanna Alex. “It allows me to give more by dividing my gifts into manageable monthly amounts.”

Other members agree with Johanna Alex. For example, one member who gave \$50 in 2013 increased to \$127 by pledging \$10.59 each month. That translates into more conservation of cherished local lands. This member also added a small tip to cover the credit card processing charges.

You can charge your monthly gift on any of the following credit or debit cards: Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, JCB and Diner's Club. We offer members the option to add a small tip to cover the credit card processing charges.

It's easy to sign up. Simply visit our secure online donation site at [nhlt.org/giving](http://nhlt.org/giving), or mail in your full name and address, credit card information and preferred monthly amount. We will handle the rest.

Do you want to do more to preserve our local landscape? Please consider monthly giving! ■

### Five Reasons to Choose Monthly Giving

1. Do more for local land and water conservation.
2. No mailed renewal notices.
3. Save paper and postage.
4. You can opt out at any time.
5. Never miss a newsletter or project update.

## THANK YOU

We thank and recognize the donors who have supported our work to permanently protect a piece of the Marquette County farm that is part of **John Muir's legacy in Wisconsin**. This list includes individuals and organization that have made gifts totaling \$21,824 to the campaign between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014.

Anonymous (6)	William & Virginia Nelson
Jim Acker	Northeast Wisconsin
Tim Andrews Horticulturist LLC	Land Trust
Sandy Bennett	Dale Neupert
Jeff & Lynn Berg	Carolyn Nord
Oliver Berge	Jefren Olsen
Sharon & John Bloodgood	Peter Ostlind
Barbara Borns	Skylar Primm
Scott Brandt	Irwin & Joyce Probst
Mary Kay Brimeyer	Dennis Prusik
Willis Brown & Photina Ree	Nancy & Ken Ragland
Barbara & Ted Cochrane	Elaine Rattunde
Ronald Cook	Richard & Mary Ann Reale
William J. Cronon	Dave & Linda Ripp
Lois Curtiss	John Roberts
Greg Delwiche	Mark & Dana Roffers
Mrs. M.E. Densmore	Betty & Max Rosenbaum
Emily Duff	Ron Rosner & Ronnie Hess
Jim Ely	William H. Rudolph
Herman Felstehausen	Doris Rusch
& Geke de Vries	Roger & Cheryl Schlessner
Don Ferber	Linda Schuler
First Business Bank	Gail & Dan Shea
Carol Fleishauer	Bernadine & Cecil Smith
Kennedy Gilchrist	Richard & Laurel Steffes
Tura Graber	Dennis Tande
Robert & Linda Graebner	& Mary Manering
Richard Grant	Thrivent Financial
& Stephanie Reynolds	Vern & Vicki Treinen
Don & Lee Grubb	Jim Trumpy
Susan Gruber	Bill & Lorette Wambach
Terry & Nancy Habeger	Pat Watson
Drew Hanson	Bill Welch & Patti Herman
Julie Hayward & Donn D'Alessio	Shahla Werner
Jack & Nancy Heiden	Tripp & Nancy Widder
Gil & Karen Herman	The Wisconsin Land Fund
Stephen & Denise Herzberg	of the Greater Green Bay
William & Kathryn Hoyt	Community Foundation
Virginia & David Huber	Fred Wolf
Rodney Huebner & Michele Rose	Harry J. Woll
Donald & Sandra Hulseberg	Fred Wollenburg
Tom & Nancy Hunt	Mike & Barbara Wollmer
John & Judith Hutchinson	Levi Wood
Integrated Restorations, LLC	Lynda & Dick Wright
Jean Knickmeyer	Josie & Geoff Young
Timothy Kohl	
David Koltes	
Roma Lenehan	
Lawrence & Helen LeRoy	
Ken & Debby Levin	
Dave Lucey	
George Lucey	
Charles Luthin & Nancy Piraino	
Marie S. McCabe	
Carolyn Meyer	
John & Nancy Meyers	
Ursula Muehllehner	
Eric Myers	
Frank & Helen Myers	

## What's Inside

- Historic Indian Agency House landscape protected
- John Muir legacy special appeal supporters
- We are applying for accreditation



Conservation where you live

303 S Paterson St, Suite 6  
Madison, WI 53703

www.nhlt.org  
608 258-9797

**Return Service Requested**

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Permit No. 245  
Madison, WI

**YOU HAVE HELPED  
PERMANENTLY PROTECT  
9,499 ACRES OF CHERISHED  
LOCAL LAND SINCE 1983**



Like preserving local lands?  
Like us on Facebook.



ALTHEA DOTZOUR PHOTOGRAPHY

## Volunteer Profile: Nancy McGill

Nancy McGill's love of the out-of-doors takes her many places, including to the office of Natural Heritage Land Trust. Nancy has been coming into the office once a week for the last three years to help with various projects. She has worked with Executive Director Jim Welsh on conservation planning for our three preserves (Patrick Marsh, Westport Drumlin, and Wilke Prairie), archiving our property records, and preparing us for accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance. And, she has worked with Conservation Specialist Caleb Pourchot on easement monitoring reports. Past Board President Johanna Alex introduced Nancy to Natural Heritage Land Trust in 2010.

### Why do you support local land conservation?

Nancy: I value open space, topsoil preservation, water quality, and wildlife habitat—all priorities for Natural Heritage Land Trust. Our metropolitan area continues to grow, which puts these values at risk and makes the Land Trust's work vital. I live in the Black Earth Creek watershed and especially appreciate the conservation efforts close to my home.

### Why do you care that Natural Heritage Land Trust succeeds?

Nancy: It is important for people to have convenient access to natural areas, so they experience, learn about and want to preserve our natural heritage. Young people in particular need to be out on the land, so that they will care about conservation as adults.

### What have you learned by working with Jim on land conservation projects?

Nancy: I've learned that Natural Heritage Land Trust stretches donated dollars to the max, that monitoring plays a key role in conservation, and that careful documentation is critical when the timeline is "in perpetuity".

### What are some of your favorite books about nature?

Nancy: Of course, A Sand County Almanac. I also love Ben Logan's The Land Remembers, which presents family life as deeply connected to farming the land. Many of Robert Frost's poems about nature resonate with me.

The board and staff of Natural Heritage Land Trust are grateful for Nancy McGill's hard work to protect and preserve cherished local lands. ■