

landscene

Spring 2015

Natural Heritage
LAND TRUST

PERMANENTLY
PROTECTED

MARIO QUINTANA

Over a mile of Yahara River frontage now a public conservancy park

In October Natural Heritage Land Trust purchased 40 acres of land on the northeast side of the City of Stoughton. The land boasts over a mile of frontage on the Yahara River and is a popular stopover for migrating waterfowl. We have donated the land to the City of Stoughton to be enjoyed as a conservancy park where the public will have permanent access to the river. The city's plans for the property include an extension of the bike trail that starts in the city and presently ends in Viking County Park, just south of the acquired property. The property is now open for hiking, cross-country skiing, hunting, fishing, and trapping.

Stoughton Mayor Donna Olson describes the park as a tremendous asset to the people of Stoughton. "The Yahara River is a major part of the identity of Stoughton," she says. "Giving people access to use and enjoy it improves the quality of life in our city."

This project was the latest example of how Natural Heritage Land Trust helps communities fulfill their parks and open-space goals. It is a model that has been very successful at places like Cherokee Marsh, Lake Belle View in Belleville, and Hickory Hill in Cross Plains.

The Yahara River land was purchased at less than fair-market value thanks to the generosity of the landowner, Andrew Arnett. Funding for the purchase came from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, the Dane County Conservation Fund, and Natural Heritage Land Trust members. It is an example of the kind of great projects that would no longer be possible if the Stewardship Program is defunded. ■

Stewardship at Risk

Governor Walker's proposed state budget calls for a freeze in spending from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program for 12 years. The Stewardship Program has been vital to our success in protecting cherished places like Cherokee



Marsh, Black Earth Creek, and the Sugar River. Please contact your state legislators to urge them to support full funding for

the Stewardship Program. For more information, please read Lloyd Eagan's story on page 2 and also visit nhlt.org/stewardship. ■



Lloyd Eagan visiting ice caves on Lake Superior last winter.

PAT EAGAN

Stewardship Program Funding—A Legacy Worth Keeping

By Lloyd Lewis Eagan

As a long time member and former board member of Natural Heritage Land Trust, I am greatly saddened and alarmed by the proposal in the Governor's budget to eliminate Stewardship Program funding for land protection for twelve years. I retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in September of 2013 after dedicating my career to water quality and natural resource protection. At the end of my career, I had the great good fortune to serve as a DNR regional director for the southcentral part of the state and then as water leader for southern Wisconsin. In both of these positions, I worked with local communities, non-profit entities, and DNR staff to use Stewardship Program funds to

preserve and enhance special places. I have seen first-hand how the Stewardship Program protects threatened natural resources, improves wildlife habitat and water quality, promotes outdoor recreation opportunities, and strengthens communities. The Stewardship Program allows partners to work together to further the legacy of Wisconsin's great environmental visionaries: John Muir, Aldo Leopold, Sigurd Olson and Gaylord Nelson.

The benefits of the Stewardship Program can be seen by projects implemented by local communities and their nonprofit partners all across Wisconsin. Locally, Natural Heritage Land Trust has used Stewardship Program funds to protect 19 special areas and thousands of acres in and around Dane County.

I am a grandmother now and, a large reason for my retirement was to spend a day a week caring for our grandson. He is only 15 months, but I have already canoed with him, carried him through the forest in a backpack, and introduced him to wildlife through books and pictures. I want us to leave special places for our grandchildren and their grandchildren to enjoy. I want future generations to know what "wildness" is like. I am sure many of you agree with me, so I implore you to join me in contacting your legislators. Please let them know that Stewardship Program purchases should not be stopped! This should not be a partisan issue. Protecting our natural resources is about protecting and improving our natural capital, a rare and precious thing.

To read the rest of Lloyd's story, including details about how the Stewardship Program has helped protect Cherokee Marsh, Black Earth Creek, and Lake Belle View Park, please go to our website nhlt.org/stewardship. ■



JEFF STROBEL

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



Want to Learn More?

Join us for a brown bag on **Thursday, April 16, 2015** from Noon – 1:00 pm at the Natural Heritage Land Trust office for an update on the Stewardship Program. Lloyd Eagan will be joined by Mike Carlson, External Relations Director for Gathering Waters, to discuss the importance of the program. Please bring your own lunch. Seating is limited. Reserve your spot at nhlt.org/events.



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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Congratulations to Gene Roark—a Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Famer

Gene Roark, Natural Heritage Land Trust member and former board member, will be inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame on May 2nd in Stevens Point. Gene, along with UW-Madison professors Joseph Hickey and Hugh Iltis, founded The Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin in 1960. Aware that special places in Wisconsin were being lost, he firmly believed that if enough people of earnest goodwill got together, they could save our lands and waters. Gene and his wife and siblings have led by example—in 2004 they put their beloved Lake Wisconsin “Point” property under a permanent conservation easement held by Natural Heritage Land Trust.

Join Gene’s fans when Gene is inducted into the Hall of Fame on Saturday, May 2nd in Stevens Point. The doors open at 9:00 a.m. and the ceremony begins at 10:00 a.m., followed by a luncheon (\$25/person). Please call (715) 346-4992 to reserve your spot.

Local Conservation. Local Leaders.

“We have been involved in Natural Heritage Land Trust since its inception in 1983/84. Formed to save the Lower Eagle Heights Woods from condominium development, the Land Trust has grown so that today it protects almost 10,000 acres of woods, wetlands, and open spaces in and around Dane County—an amazing record. We feel that a donation to Natural Heritage Land Trust is a gift to ourselves, to our children, and to our grandchildren as well.”

—Jean and Walter Meanwell, President Circle Members

Thank you to the President Circle members who contributed \$1,000 or more in 2014/15.

\$10,000+

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Members who give \$1,000 or more in a 12-month period enjoy special benefits including an invitation to an exclusive Preview event. Contact Martha Frey at 608-258-9797 or martha@nhlt.org for more information.

Welcome New Members

Thank you to everyone who joined Natural Heritage Land Trust since July 1, 2014.

Robert Alexander
Pat Becker
Paul Beckett
Lois Bergerson
Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin
Scott Blankman & Denise DeMarb
William & Lynne Buckingham
Carol Buelow
Jamie Campbell
Patricia Casad
Curt & Arlys Caslavka
Gary Coenen
Rebecca Cole
Alan & Karen Crossley
Julia Dahl Laux
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Patrick Wilson
Mary & Vern Winker
Harold Wood
Tom Woody
Russell Yttri
Larry Zanoni & Cathy Cram
James & Susan Zerwick
Dwight & Bonnie Ziegler

What's Inside

- Welcome new members
- Gene Roark is Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame inductee
- Lunch with Lloyd Eagan

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Field Trips

Most field trips are free of charge but pre-registration is required. Reserve your spot online today at nhlt.org/events or call Heidi at 258-9797.

Wolf Run Trail Walk Wednesday, May 6, 2015 4:00 – 5:30 pm

You've heard us say what a special place Black Earth Creek Valley is. Now is your chance to see why. Easement landowner Fred Wolf will lead us on a walk of the two mile public hike/bike path along a restored section of the creek. We'll start at Wisconsin Heights School and walk to the end of the trail in Mazomanie.

Thanks to our sponsors:



**HELEN AND JOHN WICK
JANET AND JAY LOEWI**

Trewartha Bobolink Hill Farm Bird Walk Saturday, May 23, 2015 10:00 – noon

Mid May is the perfect time to visit Mary Trewartha's 169-acre permanently protected farm located north of Dodgeville in Iowa County. Lupine is blooming and bobolinks and redheaded woodpeckers are nesting in her restored prairie and savanna. *Thanks to our sponsors:*



Sugar River Paddle to Paoli Saturday, May 30, 2015 Noon to 4:30 pm

If you missed it the first time, here's your opportunity to paddle with Natural Heritage Land Trust board president Willi Van Haren through protected sections of the Sugar River. It's narrow, twisty and requires some paddling skills. Everyone is responsible for bringing their own equipment. *Thanks to our sponsors:*



STEVE AND MARIANNE SCHLECHT

Eggleston-Muir Land Dedication Saturday, June 13, 2015 1:00 – 4:00 pm

See for yourself the "glorious Wisconsin Wilderness" that inspired John Muir. Join us and partners Ice Age Trail Alliance, John Muir Chapter – Sierra Club, National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service and Wisconsin Friends of John Muir for a celebration on the land you helped protect, which includes a portion of the original Muir family farm in Marquette

County. Hear guest speaker Congressman Tom Petri, participate in guided field trips including a hike around Ennis Lake, or enjoy a talk about the pioneer families that settled and farmed in John Muir's neighborhood. Afterward enjoy a piece of cake, refreshments, and live music.

Thanks to our sponsors:



First
Business



Fountain Prairie Farm Picnic Friday, July 17, 2015 6:00 – 8:30 pm

It will be a summer evening out on the prairie pasture with hosts John and Dorothy Priske. Take a wagon-ride tour of the 260 acre permanently protected farm, and hear the Priske's inspirational approach to land stewardship and sustainable farming. While the sun is setting, enjoy a brown-bag packed picnic from Madison Sourdough on blankets or chairs with beer and wine available. Save room for dessert from MSCo Patisserie. This picnic is \$30/person. *Thanks to our sponsors:*



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