

landscene

Summer 2015

Natural Heritage
LAND TRUST



*News flash:
we are now accredited.
See back for details.*

LIZZY LUEBKE



Progress at Westport Drumlin



Our 2015 Prairie Partners crew worked every Tuesday this summer at Westport Drumlin. From left to right: Tony Del Valle, Maddie Van Cleve (crew supervisor), Katya Frank, Roberta Donaldson, Tessa Schaub, Nate Kueffer, and Joe Clark.

Situated in the rolling countryside between Waunakee and Madison in the Town of Westport, Westport Drumlin State Natural Area protects four remnants of a prairie landscape. Less than 200 years ago this prairie stretched

over 50,000 acres in northern Dane County and southern Columbia County. Although tiny compared to what used to exist, the 18 acres of prairie still growing at Westport Drumlin provides a very detailed guide to Wisconsin's rich natural heritage of prairie and oak savanna.

Thanks to Natural Heritage Land Trust supporters and our partners, we have added 203 acres of land around the 14-acre DNR-owned drumlin over the past six years. We hope to report on more land acquisition in the very near future.

In the meantime, we continue work restoring the prairie remnants and planting some of the farm fields to prairie. This past winter we planted two acres of crop land on the south side of the drumlin to prairie, and we hired contractors to remove several groves of box elder, cherry, and non-native shrubs as part of the overall plan to create an over 200 acre landscape of prairie and savanna.

For the fourth consecutive summer, our Prairie Partners crew has been hard at work restoring prairie and savanna habitat at Westport Drumlin. This year's crew comes to us from UW-Stevens Point (Joe Clark, Nate Kueffer, and Tessa Schaub), UW-Madison (Roberta Donaldson and Tony Del Valle), and UW-Platteville (Katya Frank). The crew has removed hundreds of non-native buckthorn and honeysuckle shrubs and pulled out large numbers of invasive wild parsnip and sweet clover plants.

Thanks to our 2015 Prairie Partners sponsors for making this progress possible at Westport Drumlin: Mary Binkley & Dennis Petzke, Nancy & Lou Bruch, Doug & Sherry Caves, Nancy & Jack Heiden, Les & Susan Hoffman, Susan and Conrad Jostad, Jim & Rumi O'Brien, and Cary & Scott Reich. ■

\$1 million partnership grant a boon to 2,700 acres of local wetlands and uplands

For the past 3-1/2 years, Natural Heritage Land Trust has been the administrator of a \$1 million federal grant that has helped protect, restore, and enhance an incredible 2,700 acres of wetlands and associated uplands in Dane County and surrounding counties. The secret to this success was the strong partnership between the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) and Natural Heritage Land Trust, Dane County, Ducks Unlimited, Madison Audubon Society, Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Waukesha County Land Conservancy, Wisconsin DNR, Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, and many conservation-minded landowners. The grant had a wide geographic scope, protecting and improving wetlands and wildlife habitat at places like Fayville Grove Sanctuary and Allen Creek Wetlands State Natural Area in Jefferson County, Amey Pond Wildlife Refuge in Adams County, French Creek Wildlife Area in Columbia County, and Hook Lake and Walking Iron wildlife areas in Dane County.

At Brooklyn Wildlife Area in southern Dane County, the grant has helped the DNR restore 300 acres of sedge meadow, 100 acres of shrub wetland, and 100 acres of riparian corridor. Mike Foy, DNR Wildlife Biologist, has been working towards this goal for most of his 28 year career with the DNR. Mike reports, "Although many difficulties have been encountered, and some work remains to be done, we have made great progress towards putting the marsh back to what it looked like over 75 years ago". **Administering the NAWCA grant is a great example of how the work of Natural Heritage Land Trust goes far but stays local.** ■

30 acres of upland habitat owned by the DNR adjacent to Hook Lake in the Town of Dunn were restored thanks to funding from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars® Here

Natural Heritage Land Trust is enrolled in Thrivent Financial's member-advised charitable grant program, Thrivent Choice®. This is thanks to Fred Wollenburg of Dalton who nominated Natural Heritage Land Trust through his local Thrivent Financial representative last year. Thrivent Choice lets eligible Thrivent members recommend where some of the organization's charitable funds go. "I directed Choice Dollars to the Natural Heritage Land Trust because I want

to help protect John Muir's legacy in Wisconsin," said Fred.

Here's how the Thrivent Choice program works: eligible Thrivent members are designated Choice Dollars® that they can direct online, by phone, or through their Thrivent Financial representative. Participating members are thereby recommending that Thrivent provide charitable grant funding for their choice among thousands of enrolled congregations and nonprofit organizations, including Natural Heritage Land Trust.

To learn more about supporting Natural Heritage Land Trust through the Thrivent Choice program, go to <https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/> or contact Heidi Habeger at Heidi@nhlt.org or 608-258-9797. ■



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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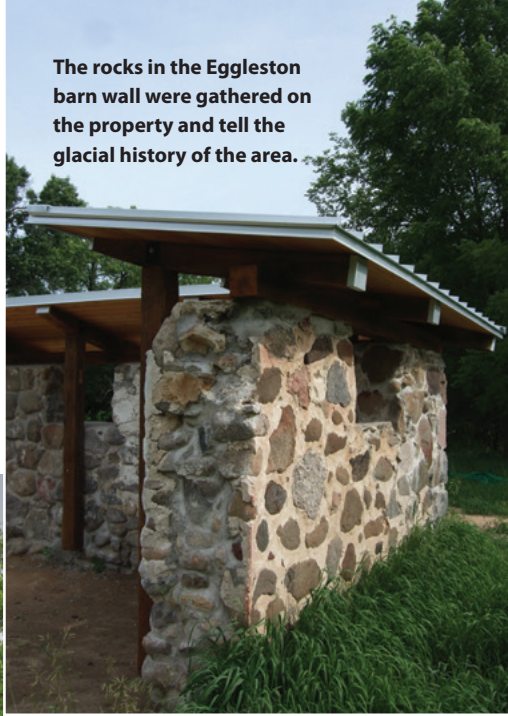
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The rocks in the Eggleston barn wall were gathered on the property and tell the glacial history of the area.



BRANT ERICSSON

Eggleston-Muir Land Dedicated

On Saturday, June 13th we celebrated the conservation of the 198 acre Eggleston-Muir family farm on the Eggleston property in Marquette County. This special event with our land protection partners, Ice Age Trail Alliance, National Park Service – Ice Age National Scenic Trail, Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and Wisconsin Friends of John Muir, commemorated the permanent protection of 38 acres of the John Muir Family Farm and honored the family of landowner Bessie Eggleston for its conservation ethic. Congressman Tom Petri and Kathleen McGwin, niece of the former landowner, spoke during

the dedication. 200 people attended the event, participated in a variety of field trips, and enjoyed refreshments and live music by *Chance*.

The Eggleston's family farming history on the property has been commemorated in a section of the original stone wall of the barn which served the property for more than 100 years. Architect Todd Barnett and his colleague Sarah Canon of Barnett Architecture in Madison designed a protective roof for the wall, which contains rocks gathered across the farm, as well as an adjacent kiosk. According to Todd, "we were excited to help preserve a piece of the family's legacy and be a part of this historic John Muir project." Our thanks go to Todd and Sarah for donating their design services.

The kiosk has four panels written, designed, and donated by Kathleen McGwin describing the history of the land and the people who cared for it. Jody Bowman of BBC Construction stabilized the barn wall and constructed the roof and kiosk. ■



BRANT ERICSSON



ANGIE BANKS

Land Trust supporter Jay Loewi and his dog hiked the new **Wolf Run Trail** along Black Earth Creek between Mazomanie and Wisconsin Heights School with landowner Fred Wolf at our May 6th field trip. Natural Heritage Land Trust holds a conservation easement over the trail corridor.

What's Inside

- Federal wetland grant conserves 2,700 acres of wetlands and uplands
- John Muir land dedicated
- Natural Heritage Land Trust is now enrolled in Thrivent Choice Dollars



Natural Heritage
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Conservation where you live

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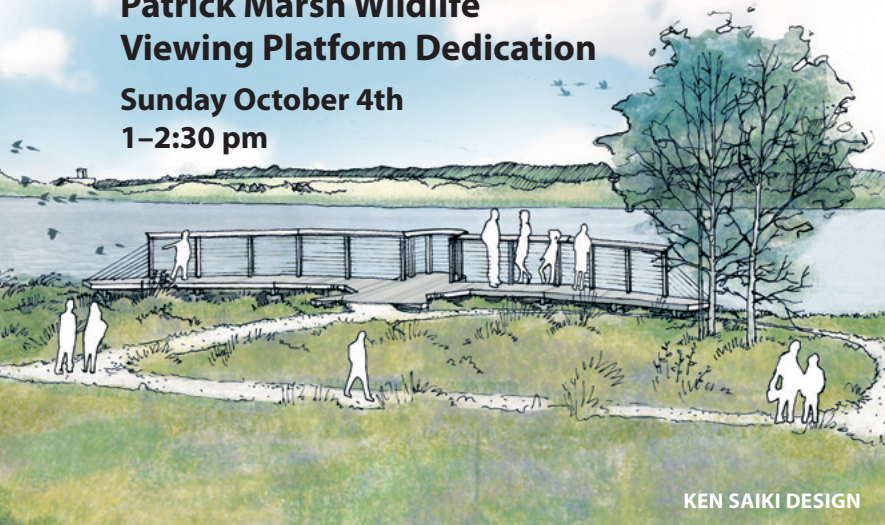
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**YOU HAVE HELPED
PERMANENTLY PROTECT
9,737 ACRES OF CHERISHED
LOCAL LAND SINCE 1983**

Patrick Marsh Wildlife Viewing Platform Dedication

Sunday October 4th
1-2:30 pm



Join Natural Heritage Land Trust, Patrick Marsh Conservancy, and our partners to celebrate the completion of wonderful new visitor features at Patrick Marsh. Thanks to many generous supporters, the improvements include a unique bird-shaped wildlife viewing platform built by Operation Fresh Start, interpretive signs designed by students at Patrick Marsh Middle School, and a new trail connecting to the neighborhoods on the south side of Patrick Marsh. Look for details about this event in September. ■

CAL DEWITT



Waubesa Wetlands Paddle Tour

Saturday, September 19, 2015
1:00 - 4:00 pm

Cal DeWitt, professor emeritus of environmental studies at UW-Madison and an expert in wetland ecology, will lead us on a two hour paddle tour of Waubesa Wetlands, one of Wisconsin's most studied and valued water habitats. We'll start at Goodland Park and explore numerous small springs and streams that feed the wetlands, including Swan Creek, Murphy Creek, and the impressive Bogholt Deep Spring. Registration will open in late August. ■



S miles and pats on the back filled our office this month when Natural Heritage Land Trust reached an important milestone: accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. We are now one of 317 land trusts from across the country that has been awarded accreditation since the program began seven years ago. To become accredited, we went through a rigorous review conducted by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Outside reviewers examined the policies and practices that we use to permanently protect great places in the Dane County region and reviewed comments provided by our conservation partners. We are proud to display the Accreditation seal of approval. It shows that we meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust, and ensure that our conservation efforts are permanent.