



GROUNDSWELL CONSERVANCY

FALL 2017

FORMERLY KNOWN AS **NATURAL HERITAGE LAND TRUST**

Natural Heritage Land Trust is now Groundswell!
See inside for details.



Lodi Marsh – a sum greater than its parts

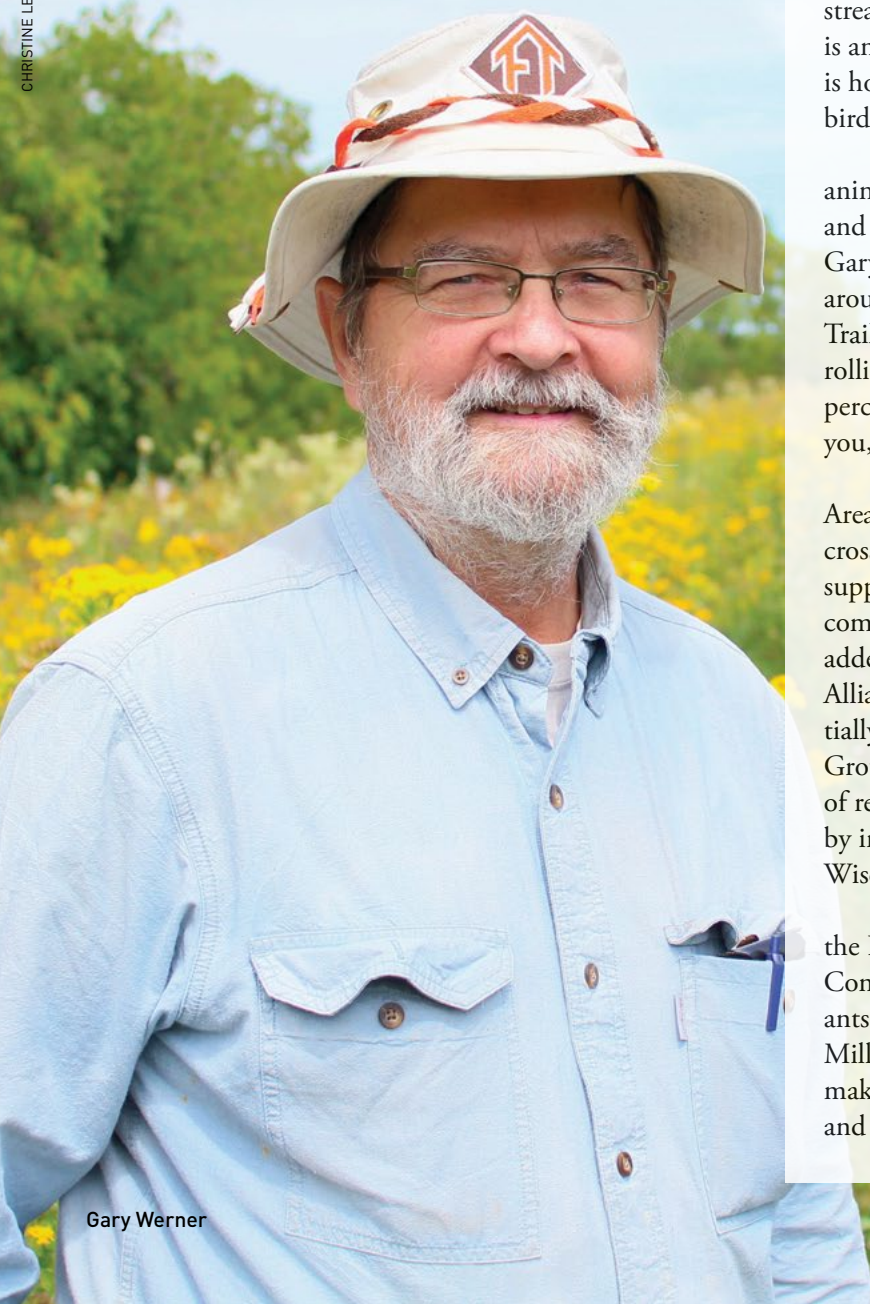
Piece by piece, the conserved landscape at Lodi Marsh continues to grow. Our most recent addition—the 58-acre Miller Family property—features a spring-fed trout stream running through the marsh. The Miller property is an integral part of the Lodi Marsh landscape, which is home to rare insect species and a long list of breeding birds, from wrens and warblers to herons and cranes.

But land conservation benefits more than plants and animals. It benefits everyone. Gary Werner has understood and promoted conservation and its benefits for decades. Gary got involved in restoration work in Lodi Marsh around 1995 while building hiking trails with the Ice Age Trail Alliance. “Lodi Marsh offers spectacular views and rolling terrain, perfect for walking a while then finding a perch to stop, look and listen to what’s going on around you,” Gary suggests.

Just south of the City of Lodi, the State Wildlife Area is easily accessible and offers hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, fishing and hunting. “I’m extremely supportive of the work Groundswell does to ensure our community will always have these opportunities,” Gary added. “Their work helps other conservationists like the Alliance accomplish more, so the benefits grow exponentially. I hope that more people will be inspired to support Groundswell and to join in the joyful and fulfilling work of restoring the native plant communities threatened by invasive species at Lodi Marsh and other preserves in Wisconsin.”

Funding to purchase the Miller property came from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, Dane County Conservation Fund, and Dane County Chapter of Pheasants Forever. Our thanks go to the conservation-minded Miller family and to all the supporters of Groundswell for making Lodi Marsh an even better place to get outside and enjoy Wisconsin. ●

CHRISTINE LEIGH PHOTOGRAPHY



Gary Werner



GROUNDSWELL CONSERVANCY

Our new logo evokes the topography of the Lake Mendota shoreline at Wally Bauman Woods, our first project.



ANGIE BANKS

Sun Prairie's Curt the Cardinal and Jim Welsh at Patrick Marsh.

Groundswell— new name, larger impact

Many of you may remember the excitement and sense of accomplishment when a group of people came together in the early 1980s to protect a few acres of woodland on Lake Mendota. The creation of Wally Bauman Woods started a conservation movement that has saved many wonderful local landscapes of farmland, wetlands, woods and prairies, and has provided public places to hike, hunt, fish, and play in and around Dane County.

Our movement is now 34 years old, and our accomplishments have really added up. Since we got started as Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation and later became Natural Heritage Land Trust, we have permanently protected more than 11,000 acres of our beautiful landscape.

Protecting more land and serving more people is more important than ever. As our community grows and becomes more diverse, we continue to need land for good health and vibrant communities. But the competition for land gets stiffer every year. So what do we do?

Our core purpose is unwavering—to protect special places forever—but we are re-dedicating our work to the broader community so that we can protect even more places that are important in all our lives.

Our new name—Groundswell Conservancy—represents everything Natural Heritage Land Trust is and does. The name creates a powerful identity that will help us enlarge our wonderful base of friends, supporters, and partners. With it, we can connect with young families, college students, urban youth, and environmentally conscious consumers with limited outdoor recreation experience—the conservation heroes that we will surely need tomorrow and in the years to come.

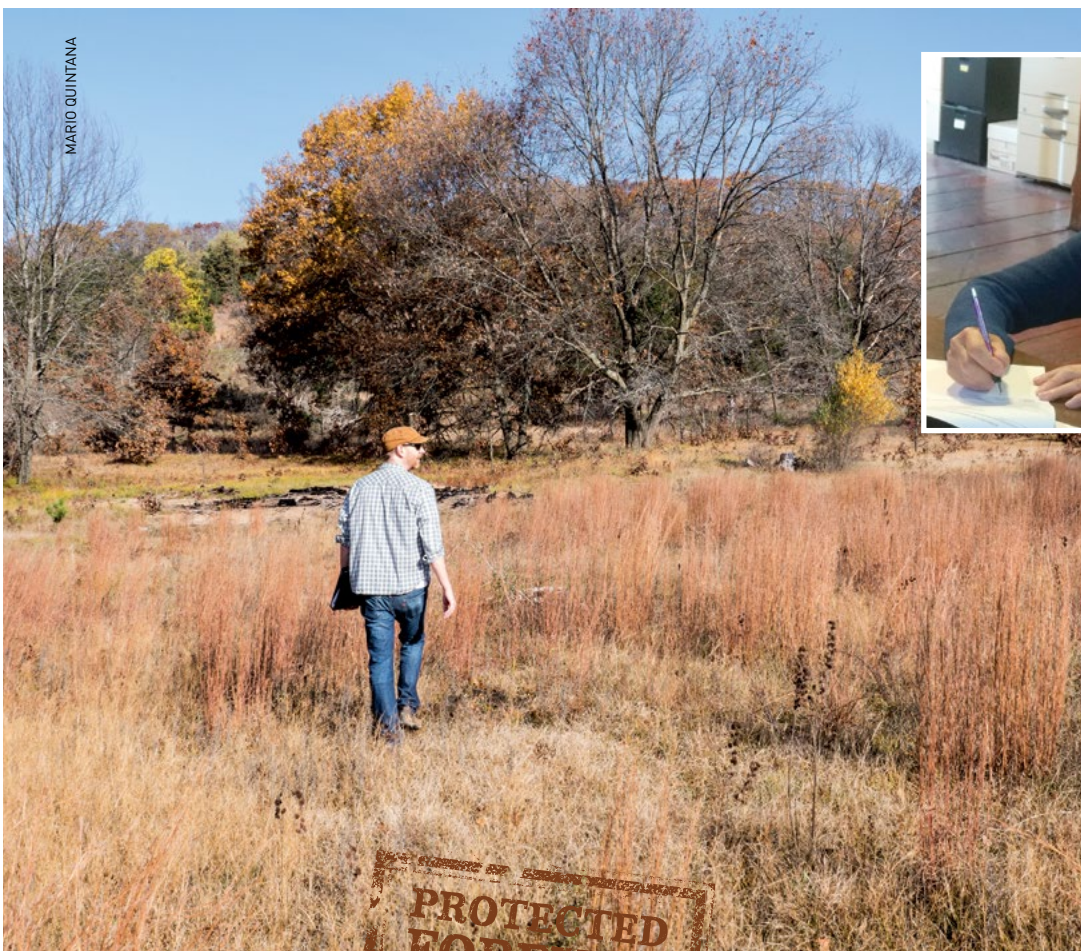
Groundswell also helps tell how your impact goes beyond “acres saved” to “lives changed.” We are using our own expertise in land protection to give disconnected youth important work experience on our preserves, helping students at Lake View Elementary School learn outside in an enlarged outdoor classroom, and securing land for local food production by immigrant farmers.

Conservation of cherished places—Cherokee Marsh, Black Earth Creek, Westport Drumlin, Patrick Marsh, Town of Dunn farmland—doesn't happen by accident. It happens because our community comes together to make it happen. I look forward to all we will accomplish together in the coming years.

Jim Welsh
Executive Director



PROTECTED FOREVER In early June, the Parisi family protected their special place in the Town of Dunn. Terry Parisi and her son, Franco (pictured), operate a CSA on their beloved 90-acre farm. Theirs is one of 29 farms we have permanently protected with the Town of Dunn over the last 20 years. Funding to purchase the conservation easement came from the USDA Agricultural Land Easements program and Town of Dunn residents. ●



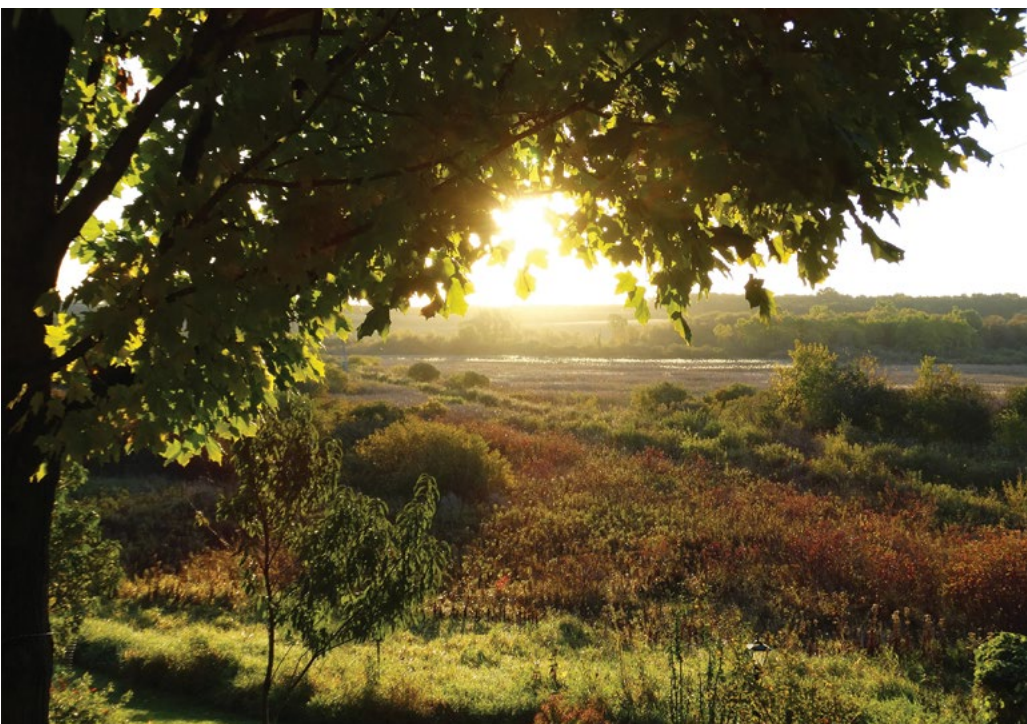
PROTECTED FOREVER In late June, the Zoller family protected their special place along Rowan Creek near Poynette with a conservation easement. Landowner Telle Zoller was born in Finland, but says she always felt more at home on this land. She is lovingly restoring the property which boasts a commanding view of the Rowan Creek valley, dry prairie remnants, oak woodlands, and habitat for many rare and threatened plant and animal species. ●



PAT SHEAHAN

PROTECTED FOREVER Thanks to landowner John Jensen, in May we added 50 acres of floodplain forest and frontage on the Sugar River to add to Avon Bottoms Wildlife Area in southwestern Rock County. Avon Bottoms is a nearly 3,000 acre state wildlife area stretching for seven miles along the Sugar River. Funding for this purchase was provided by the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Pheasants Forever Rock River Valley Chapter, and supporters of Groundswell. ●

OUT ON THE LAND



Evening in a Wetland

As the sun began to set on Earth Day, wetland enthusiasts joined Professor Cal DeWitt and naturalist Mary Binkley for an evening stroll to take in the sights and sounds of Waubesa Wetland in the Town of Dunn. ●

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Beekeeping Basics

Groundswell supporters enjoyed an August afternoon hearing about the birds and bees from Town of Dunn conservation easement landowner Don Schmidt and Bee Barf Honey Co. owner Sue Richards. ●

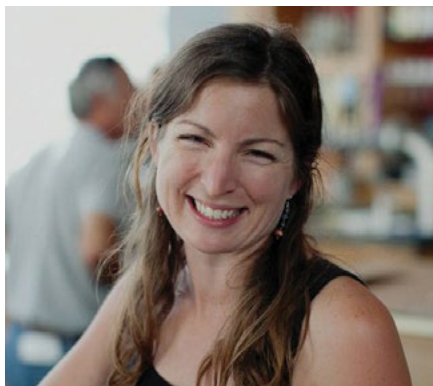
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Hello and Farewell to our Board of Directors



Welcome Carrie Breunig

Carrie Breunig is a youth worker, an aspiring farmer, and an artist at heart. She grew up in rural Wisconsin on a small farm and was raised to value all wild things. Carrie has a BS from UW Madison as well as a graduate certificate from Edgewood College's Social Innovation and Sustainability Leadership program. She is currently the Lussier LOFT Teen Center Girls Inc. Coordinator at the Goodman Community Center where she provides education and outdoor recreation opportunities for teen girls. Her prior youth work includes seven years at Operation Fresh Start. Carrie has been active in the organic farming community in Madison for about ten years, and she spent two years living in the Kickapoo Valley coordinating the CSA and wholesale production at Driftless Organics. ●

Farewell to Willi Van Haren

Willi Van Haren joined the board in 2008, serving as president from 2012-2015. With Willi at the helm, many great places were protected, including Wolf Run Trail, part of John Muir's boyhood home, Historic Indian Agency House, and Fountain Prairie Farm. As president he led us through the accreditation process and established a strong partnership with Operation Fresh Start. From being our expert paddler, leading us down some of the most beautiful stretches of our local waterways, to organizing a trail run that has raised \$45,000 over the last five years for Groundswell, Willi has been active in almost every aspect of our work throughout his nine years on the board. Thank you, Willi. ●



Including Groundswell in your will or estate plan is one of the simplest ways to make a gift for the future. If you would like to learn more about including us in your plans, please contact Heidi Habeger at (608) 258-9797 or heidi@nhlt.org.

If you have included "Natural Heritage Land Trust" in your plans, you do not need to update them with our new name.



We protect special places, forever. Our vision is a world filled with green places where communities thrive.

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**You have protected forever 11,207 acres
of cherished local land.**

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Volunteer at our trail run



ROBERTA HERSCHLEB

Groundswell will once again be the major beneficiary of the Black Hawk Ridge Trail Run taking place this year on Sunday October 22nd. The 8K and 16K courses near Sauk City take runners through restored prairie, hardwood forest, and a pine plantation with views of the Wisconsin River valley. Volunteers make this wonderful fundraising event possible, helping with parking, registration, and water stations. Want to be a part of the food, fun, and giveaways? Reach out to Sara at (608) 258-9797 or sara@groundswellwisconsin.org.

*Thank you to Jim Berbee
and Karen Walsh for sponsoring
the trail run.*