



Cherokee Marsh grows!

“We felt it was important to have the wetland that we owned be left in its natural state. What better way to have that done, than to put it into conservation.” Those are the words of Craig Ziegler, Director of the Training Center at the Wisconsin Laborers’ Apprenticeship and Training Fund. In June, the Fund sold to us **95 acres of Cherokee Marsh wetland** bordering the Yahara River on the south side of Hwy. 19.

Cherokee Marsh is the largest wetland in Dane County, the home to many plant and animal species, a protector of water quality for the Yahara River and Madison lakes, and a great place to hike, fish, paddle, hunt, and bird-watch.

This summer we completed several land deals that increase the amount of protected land at the marsh. Besides the wetland acquisition, we accepted a **conservation easement on a 90-acre farm** on the uplands on the west side of the marsh. Peg Whiteside generously donated the conservation easement on her farm overlooking the marsh. A healthy wetland depends on healthy uplands, few of which have been protected around Cherokee Marsh. Peg says she “grateful there is a way to protect her farm” which she has owned and loved for many years. Peg also made it possible for us to secure land for a group of Hmong farmers (more about that in our upcoming annual report).

In the late 1950s, the Dane County Conservation League, the City of Madison, and the State Conservation Department (now the DNR) developed a plan to protect 3,000 acres of the marsh. Our work is the latest in a decades-long effort. Groundswell’s first project at the marsh was the purchase in 1991 of 21 acres of wetlands where the Yahara River wetlands meet Lake Mendota. Since then we have added more than 500 acres to the protected area of Cherokee Marsh.

Funding to purchase the Wisconsin Laborer’s property was provided by Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Dane County Conservation Fund, Friends of Cherokee Marsh, and supporters of Groundswell.

Thanks to everyone—especially the landowners—who made these conservation successes possible. ●



Rock County land to be transformed and open to public



Through the generosity of Orfordville residents Carol and Norm Aulabaugh, 75 rolling acres will be transformed into a public natural resource. Carol and Norm donated the land, Sunny Peace Prairie, to Green-Rock Audubon Society this winter. Green-Rock Audubon will restore the property under a permanent conservation easement Groundswell now holds on the land. The easement ensures the Aulabaugh's wish that the land be open for the public's enjoyment will be upheld, forever.

When asked what motivated them to donate their land, Norm offered these words from Willa Cather's book *O Pioneers!*:

"The land belongs to the future, Carl; that's the way it seems to me. How many of the names on the county clerk's plat will be there in fifty years? I might as well try to will the sunset over there to my brother's children. We come and go, but the land is always here. And the people who love it and understand it are the people who own it—for a little while."

Our thanks go to Norm and Carol for their wonderful gift to the future and to Groundswell Conservancy supporters who make our work on these projects possible. ●



TIM ESCHER

Views from Lake Wisconsin protected forever

Thanks to the generosity and foresight of several landowners, beautiful scenery can be enjoyed forever by boaters on Lake Wisconsin. This May, Tim and Terri Escher completed this conservation puzzle.

In 1999, Arline Paunack placed a conservation easement on her property, a 92-acre complex of wetlands and forest along Lake Wisconsin. In April, Groundswell assumed responsibility for stewardship of this easement from Gathering Waters, Wisconsin's Alliance for Land Trusts. To the west, Tim and Terri Escher placed their first conservation easement on Cave Bluff in 2013. This spring, the Escher's protected more land with another permanent conservation

easement, filling the gap between their original easement and the Paunack easement.

Together, the three easements form a corridor of conserved land that extends across 182 acres of upland woods, prairie remnants, wetlands, and 3,000 feet of mostly undeveloped shoreline on Lake Wisconsin. These lands are not open to the public but they permanently protect scenery and also help maintain water quality by restricting the disturbance of soil that might otherwise end up in the lake. ●



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

BOARD AND STAFF

PRESIDENT

Greg Hyer, Cross Plains

VICE PRESIDENT

Matt Frank, Middleton

TREASURER

Tom Krauskopf, Madison

SECRETARY

Renee Lauber, Madison

DIRECTORS

Carrie Breunig, Madison
Anne Brindley, Monona
Vicki Elkin, Madison
Cameron Field, Madison
Darcy Kind, Madison
Patricia Leavenworth, Mount Horeb
Barry Perkel, Madison
Glenn Reinl, Madison
Veronica Rueckert, Madison
Anne Sayers, Cross Plains
Mariana Weinhold, Madison
Jediah White, Madison

PAST PRESIDENTS

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

CONSERVATION SPECIALIST

Tony Abate

CONSERVATION SPECIALIST

Caleb Pourchot

DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH MANAGER

Danni Lang

DIRECTOR OF MAJOR & PLANNED GIFTS

Heidi Habeger

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jim Welsh

Groundswell welcomes two new board members



Cameron Field is an environmental attorney at Michael Best, where he provides counsel to businesses to meet their goals while obtaining and maintaining compliance with state and federal environmental regulations. Cameron studied Environmental Studies at St. Olaf College and obtained a Master's degree in Environmental Law and Policy and a law degree from Vermont Law School. In Madison, he enjoys celebrating the many beautiful public spaces—like those protected by Groundswell—by hiking, paddling, and skiing with his wife and dog. “I look forward to serving on the Groundswell Board to continue the great work of the organization and influence its trajectory as we work to conserve special places.” ●



ALTHEA DOTZOUR

Veronica Rueckert is a Peabody Award-winning communications specialist and the owner of Veronica Rueckert Coaching. She was the host of Wisconsin Public Radio's statewide news magazine *Central Time* and the statewide call-in program, *The Veronica Rueckert Show*. Earlier, she worked as a senior producer and contributor on the national program *To the Best of Our Knowledge*. Veronica conducts media training and national media outreach at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She and her family love hiking and kayaking in the beautiful natural areas in Dane County and beyond. “Visiting the wild places in Wisconsin always leaves me with more than I arrived with. From the birch forest at Indian Lake, the shores of Lake Superior on Madeline Island, and the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi—so many of Wisconsin's outdoor places are unique and precious. That's why I'm honored to be part of Groundswell Conservancy—where the treasures of Dane County are protected for generations to come. I can't wait to dig in!” ●



ALTHEA DOTZOUR

Welcome Danni Lang

Danni Lang joined Groundswell Conservancy as our new Development and Outreach Manager in May. She took over for Sara Graves who got a new job with the UW Foundation in March. Danni works with donors and coordinates field trips that provide opportunities for supporters to experience the land they help permanently protect.

WHAT DID YOU DO BEFORE JOINING GROUNDSWELL'S TEAM? I worked for different libraries including, most recently, the Wisconsin State Law Library. I loved being of service to the many different people who used the library. My passion, though, has been being outside and cultivating community gardens in downtown Madison. I love that I get to be of service to people who are just as passionate about green spaces as I am!

WHY DO YOU BELIEVE IN PERMANENTLY PROTECTING SPECIAL PLACES? I had the privilege of growing up on a farm. Everything my family did was rooted in the health of the soil and land. Our community thrived when our farms, prairies, and wetlands thrived. I'm eager to use my development skills to ensure that our community continues to thrive and has access to the many gifts being in nature bring.

WHAT ARE YOU GROWING ON YOUR FARMETTE? My husband and I have 8.8 acres near beautiful Argyle, Wisconsin. We are raising Shetland sheep, American Pilgrim geese, turkeys, ducks, and chickens. We hope to plant more fruit trees and eventually have a few Dexter cows for milk and cheese.

Danni can be reached at 258-9797 or danni@groundswellwisconsin.org.

Can you volunteer at our trail run in October?



The annual Black Hawk Ridge Trail Run will take place on Sunday, October 21st. The 8K and 16K courses near Sauk City take runners through restored prairie, hardwood forest, and a pine plantation above the Wisconsin River valley. Proceeds help

Groundswell protect the special places you love. If you would like to help with parking, registration, and water stations, please contact Danni at (608) 258-9797 or danni@groundswellwisconsin.org.

Thanks to Jim Berbee and Karen Walsh for sponsoring the run, which would not be possible without the extraordinary efforts of Sherren Clark, Gail Van Haren, and Willi Van Haren. ●



GROUNDSWELL

Conservation Where You Live

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

FORMERLY KNOWN AS **NATURAL HERITAGE LAND TRUST**

303 S. Paterson St, Suite 6
Madison, WI 53703
groundswellwisconsin.org
608 258-9797



You have protected forever **11,669 acres** of cherished local land.



 100% recycled paper

On the Land

We hope you will join us at an upcoming field trip or event.
Please visit the events calendar on our website (groundswellwisconsin.org).



Star-gazers found new ways to enjoy the tranquility of Westport Drumlin on a summer evening in August.

Thank you to our sponsors:



Fresh vegetable enthusiasts enjoyed a hot afternoon in July taking in the lush fields and hoop houses of savory vegetables and the tranquil prairie at Terry Parisi's protected, organic farm in the Town of Dunn.

Thank you to our sponsors: [Grassland Media, Inc.](#)

