



Vicki France Photography

## Good News for History and Nature

Thanks to a new collaboration with the Town of Perry on the southwest side of Dane County, the conservation values of Historic Hauge Park have been protected forever.

It took Town residents two decades of sustained effort to protect the park – including support from Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk, former U.S. Ambassador to Norway Tom Loftus – and letters of encouragement from the King and Queen of Norway!

**Hauge Historic District Park is unique in so many ways – and now it's protected with a new conservation easement.** The 30-acre park is located around the privately owned, two-acre Hauge Log Church National Historic Site. It is the second highest

public park observation point in Dane County.

With miles of hiking trails and a spectacular view of the Blue Mounds, the park was voted “Best Place to Watch a Sunset in Dane County” by *Madison Magazine*. It was also named a Dane County Historical and Cultural Site in the DNR’s 2018-2023 Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan.

We are excited to have completed this public-private partnership to help protect this special place forever. A special thanks to Doug King, CEO of The Madison Group Consultants, Stafford Rosenbaum attorney Chris Hughes, and Town Supervisor Mick Klein Kennedy for their efforts.





## Generous Donation on the WI River

Good news, another wonderful piece of the Wisconsin River has been permanently protected. In late February, Nancy Heiden, a founder of Groundswell Conservancy and lifelong conservationist, generously donated a 13-acre parcel of land on the south side of the river to Groundswell.

Nancy said, “This donation has been a long time coming. My family and I enjoyed the property for many years. It was part of many wonderful adventures we had on the Wisconsin River. I was one of the founders of Groundswell Conservancy back in 1983 when several conservationists came together to form the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation. This donation makes perfect sense for me.”

The property includes 800 feet of shoreline on the river. It features a large “sand blow” which is a specialized wildlife habitat that occurs on unstable sandy areas.

With Nancy’s permission, Groundswell will place a perpetual conservation easement on the property. The easement will limit development of the property to a small house or cabin. This structure will have to be located away from the river and out of the delicate “sand blow” habitat. We will offer the restricted property for sale to a conservation-minded landowner at a later time. The proceeds from the sale will support our conservation work for years to come.







Mario Quintana

## Prairie Partners are back at it again



Ben Jones

*The crew is hard at work removing wild parsnip  
from Patrick Marsh*

We're in our 11th year with the Prairie Partners and going strong! Every summer, Groundswell partners with other local conservation organizations to give back to the land through habitat restoration. This year's collaboration was with Madison Audubon Society, Friends of Lakeshore Nature Preserve, Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy, and Friends of Cherokee Marsh. Throughout the summer, each organization hosted five undergraduate interns for one day of the week. This year, Groundswell led the intern crew on Mondays. Work sites alternated between Westport Prairie and Patrick Marsh. Our crew spent the summer collecting prairie seed for winter prairie plantings, cutting invasive trees and shrubs out of prairies and oak savannas, and pulling aggressive and harmful weeds like wild parsnip. **We can't thank our crew enough for all of the hard work they do at the places we love.** We look forward to continuing on with this partnership for years to come!

Groundswell's participation in this internship program would not be possible without the financial support of this year's crew sponsors: Mary Binkley and Dennis Petzke, David Boutwell, Nancy and Lou Bruch, Nancy and Wes Carter, Doug and Sherry Caves, Nancy Heiden, Susan and Conrad Jostad, Jim and Rumi O'Brien, Cary and Scott Reich, Mark Smith and Dan Rigney, Don and Joanne Tierney, Lorette Wambach, and Susan Young Hoffman and Les Hoffman.





Ben Jones

## Improvements – and our first tractor!



*Above: Groundswell's Community Director Yimmuj Yang with her family*

This May, Groundswell and supporters celebrated improved access to Westport Prairie. We invite you to enjoy the new parking area, two new trails, and kiosk signage. This work was made possible thanks to Karl Gutknecht and Susan Hunt, the James E. Dutton Foundation, and the Oberweiler Foundation.

Groundswell continues to improve access to Westport Prairie and to restore the prairie landscape for plants and wildlife. To care for our restored prairies and to mow our new trails, we are raising funds for our first tractor (~\$15,000)! If you'd like to help, please contact BJ at: [bj@groundswellconservancy.org](mailto:bj@groundswellconservancy.org).

## Operation Fresh Start New Hire



Ben Jones

This fall, Groundswell will hire a limited-term Land Steward through Operation Fresh Start's Conservation Academy. The Conservation Academy (originally called the Conservation Graduate Crew) helps outdoors-minded young adults learn crucial job skills to help them pursue careers in conservation. This program was jointly developed by Groundswell Conservancy and Operation Fresh Start (OFS).

Groundswell is excited to have such a great partnership with OFS. We look forward to building a conservation career pathway that is open and accessible to all.

If you would like to help make this hire possible with a gift, please contact Heidi at: [heidi@groundswellconservancy.org](mailto:heidi@groundswellconservancy.org)



Since acquiring our two farms in 2018, we have been making improvements and creating access to basic production needs for our farmers. Our work and your support for urban agriculture have benefited the farmers, their families, friends, and the community at large.



## Westport Farm

At Westport Farm, the water distribution system is finally installed! Now each of the growers has access to water near their crops. Thank you to our funders for supporting this important improvement at the Farm: Willy Street Co-op, Second Harvest Food Bank of Southern Wisconsin, Evjue Foundation, Boyden Financial, and High Wind Association.

## Pasley's Swan Creek Farm

At Pasley's Swan Creek Farm, we continue to work on creating a permanent source of water for Neighborhood Food Solutions. Currently, the farm has been accessing city water through a metered hydrant hookup, which is not a viable long term solution. Our goal is to ensure the Farm has access to water now and in the future. If you would like to provide financial support for water, please contact Yimmuj at: [yimmuj@groundswellconservancy.org](mailto:yimmuj@groundswellconservancy.org)







I'm Hannah Ditto, and I worked for Groundswell this summer as a **Land Protection Intern**. I'm currently a senior at Colgate University, studying geography with an emphasis in soil science and GIS. Part of my week is spent out in the field, doing hands-on conservation work. I'm no stranger to getting my hands dirty—literally. My studies often require digging large pits and grabbing handfuls of mud. I'm very passionate about the outdoors and very grateful for this opportunity to give back to the environment and to protect land!



I'm Harlie Pingel, and I **managed Groundswell's Facebook and Instagram social media efforts this summer**. I'm a student at Waunakee High School, going into my senior year. I plan to continue my education through college, focusing on the environment. I'm passionate about conservation and am a leadership member of Dane County Youth Volunteers for Conservation. Through Groundswell, I've been able to grow my knowledge of conservation and leadership skills around Dane County. I enjoyed working with Groundswell this summer and taking a more active role in the community.

Ben Jones

*Harlie and her mom Linda at the Town of Dunn Food Cart Night*

## Writing the Land

Writing the Land is a collaborative project between local land trusts and artists to help raise awareness for the preservation of land, ecosystems, and biodiversity. We were honored to work with two talented poets, Angie Trudell Vasquez and LM Brimmer. You can read their poems inspired by Patrick Marsh and Westport Prairie at [groundswellconservancy.org/writingtheland](http://groundswellconservancy.org/writingtheland)



Nancy Musinguzi

*LM Brimmer wrote poems inspired by Westport Prairie.*



John Ficenec

*Angie Trudell Vasquez wrote poems inspired by Patrick Marsh.*





Mario Quintana

Thanks so much to everyone who joined us for our first ever Patrick Marsh Food Cart Night on June 2nd. The weather was perfect, the food was delicious, and we got to connect with friends and neighbors while enjoying this special place!



Ben Jones

Carole and Don Schmidt and Custom Metals were gracious hosts of our **Town of Dunn Food Cart Night** on July 27th. Protected forever, the Schmidt's prairie was a picturesque setting for all who joined us. And we celebrated the Town of Dunn! Gathering Waters presented the Town Chair, Steve Greb, with their Working Land Preservation award, in recognition of the Town's Purchase of Development Rights Program. We have been partnering with the Town to protect their agricultural lands for 25 years. This was a Wisconsin Land Trust Days Event. Thank you to our sponsors:



## Board and Staff

### PRESIDENT

Tracy Wiklund, McFarland

### VICE PRESIDENT

Ali Baker, Baraboo

### TREASURER

Alton Multhauf, Oregon

### SECRETARY

Patricia Leavenworth, Mount Horeb

### DIRECTORS

Mary Binkley, Madison  
Curt Bjurlin, Madison  
Anne Brindley, Monona  
Matt Frank, Middleton  
Greg Hyer, Cross Plains  
Veronica Rueckert, Madison  
Stacy Rhone, Sun Prairie  
Rodee Schneider, Madison

### PAST PRESIDENTS

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

### CONSERVATIONIST

BJ Byers

### CONSERVATION DIRECTOR

Tony Abate

### COMMUNITY DIRECTOR

Yimmuj Yang

### DEVELOPMENT & OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Liz Pelton

### DIRECTOR OF MAJOR & PLANNED GIFTS

Heidi Habeger

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Angela West Blank

### LAND PROTECTION SPECIALIST

Mike Foy

## MISSION

We protect special places forever. We want everyone to live in a world filled with green places where communities thrive. We believe that land is essential for all people's physical, emotional, and spiritual wellness. If we don't protect undeveloped land now, it may be lost forever.





# GROUNDSWELL

Conservation Where You Live

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

303 S. Paterson St, Suite 6  
Madison, WI 53703  
[groundswellconservancy.org](http://groundswellconservancy.org)  
608 258-9797



Newsletter designed by Jeff Weyer

## Places Worth Knowing

Join Groundswell Conservancy outside and get to know the places you help protect. Our field trips are free but registration is required. Reserve your spot online today at [groundswellconservancy.org/events](http://groundswellconservancy.org/events).

### Historic Indian Agency House Tour & Walk Sunday, October 2 1:00 – 3:00 PM

In 2014, the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Wisconsin granted a 164-acre conservation easement to Groundswell Conservancy, this easement protects the landscape around the Historic Indian Agency House in Portage. Get a guided tour of one of the oldest houses in Wisconsin, which was built in 1832. And learn about the land on an easy 1-mile guided nature trail walk. Thank you to our sponsors:



### Black Hawk Ridge Trail Run

#### Can you volunteer at our trail run in October?

The annual Black Hawk Ridge Trail Run will take place on Sunday, October 23rd. 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, or water stations, please contact Heidi at (608) 258-9797 or [heidi@groundswellconservancy.org](mailto:heidi@groundswellconservancy.org). Sign up to run at <https://www.wisconsintrailruns.com>



Roberta Herschleb