

THE PLACES WE'VE PROTECTED

The Natural Heritage Land Trust is grateful to all of its members for their support and wishes to recognize its major contributors. \$5000+ Eugenie Mayer Bolz Family Foundation • Estate of Theodora H. Kubly • Madison Community Foundation **\$2,500+** BT² • Walt & Stacey Meanwell • Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Inc • Vandewalle & Associates **\$1,000+** Architectural Building Arts • Robert & Anne Bolz • John J. Frautschi Family Foundation • W. Jerome Frautschi • Johnson Bank • Sara Krebsbach & Glenn Reintl • Jean & Walter A. Meanwell • Michael, Best & Friedrich LLP • Mount Horeb Truck Parts, Inc • David & Katie Simon • Michael & Linda Slavney • Jeffrey Strobel • Veridian Homes, LLC • Webcrafters-Frautschi Foundation • Bill & Win Welsh **\$500+** Anonymous • Emily H. Earley • John Feith • First Business Bank • Fontana Sports Specialties, Inc • Goodman's Jewelers • Rob & Joy Gottschalk • Hooper Foundation • John & Judith Hutchinson • Michael Lawton • Madison Homebrewers & Tasters Guild • Mr. & Mrs. Oscar G. Mayer • Pacific Cycle • Mark B. Williams **\$250+** Jean Bahr • Bremser Group, Inc. CPAs • Bruce Company • Brian Butler & Carolyn Lazar Butler • Reed Coleman • Betty Craig & Bob Gurda • Cal & Ruth DeWitt • Michael & Shelley Dubis • Lloyd & Patrick Eagan • Haen Real Estate • Terry L. Haller • Lola Hickey • Chris Hughes • David & Mary Kennedy • Arthur & Susan Lloyd • Bill Lunney & Judie Pfeifer • Marling Lumber Company • Darren & Dawn Marsh • Bill O'Connor & Krista Roys • Roberts Construction • Scott Sauer • David & Katherine Sebastian • Scott Storlid • Rolf & Susan Wulfsberg

The Land Trust also wishes to acknowledge the following who provided major support for the acquisition of land at Patrick Marsh. Dane County Conservation Fund • Hawley Family Charitable Foundation • Thomas Lee & Patty Hebl • Gary & Lynn Hebl • John & Judith Hutchinson • Anita Jackson • Dean & Lisa Kalmerton • Douglas & Martha Kintner • Carol Mitchell & Katherine Rybak • Wilfred & Marie Pimentel • Daniel Rigney & Mark Smith • Sun Prairie Rotary Foundation • Lucy & David Terry • Wal-Mart Foundation • Bill & Loretta Wambach • Patricia & Milfred Zastrow

Financials

The Natural Heritage Land Trust's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30.

During fiscal year 2003, we received \$177,482 in revenue and spent \$219,449 on programs and other operational expenses.

At June 30, 2004, we had total assets of \$931,235. We maintained the following funds to help accomplish our conservation work:

Conservation Fund	\$ 307,515
<i>(land acquisition and conservation easement costs)</i>	
Easement Enforcement Fund	88,675
<i>(conservation easement enforcement activities)</i>	
Operations Fund <i>(general operations of the Land Trust)</i>	232,960
Operations Endowment* <i>(general operations of the Land Trust)</i>	125,041

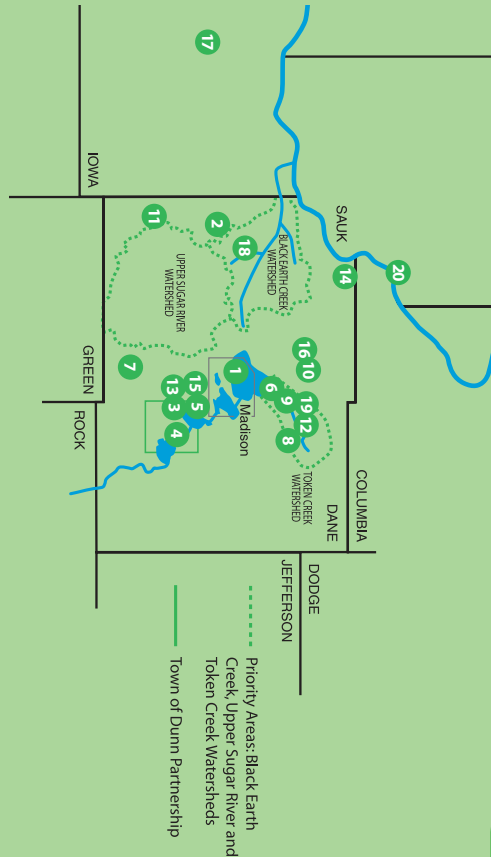
* In addition to this endowment, the Madison Community Foundation holds an endowment that also supports the general operations of the Land Trust. It was valued at \$152,681 on June 30, 2004. A portion of each endowment is available to the Land Trust for project funding.

Contact us if you would like a copy of our audited financial statements for July 1, 2003–June 30, 2004.

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest dollar.



- 1 Lower Eagle Heights Woods, Madison 1984
- 2 Evenson's Woods easement, Town of Vermont 1985
- 3 Watt's easement, Lake Waubesa 1986
- 4 McClain easement, Lower Mud Lake 1987
- 5 Schmidt's Orchard, Nine Springs E-Way 1988
- 6 Addition to Cherokee Marsh 1991
- 7 Cell easement, Village of Brooklyn 1993
- 8 Thomas streambank easement, Token Creek 1993
- 9 Whiteside easement, Town of Westport 1993
- 10 Wilke Preserve, Waunakee 1994
- 11 Hayward-D'Alesio easement 1995
- 12 Smith streambank easement, Token Creek 1996
- 13 Sinaiko-Nine Springs E-Way Project, Town of Dunn 1997
- 14 Fish Lake Project, Town of Roxbury 2001
- 15 Purchase of Development Rights Projects with the Town of Dunn 2000-2004
- 16 Bolz Conservancy Park, Waunakee 2001
- 17 Trewartha easement, Iowa County 2003
- 18 Garfoot Creek, Black Earth Creek Watershed (acquired 2001, transferred 2004)
- 19 Pederson Token Creek (acquired 2001, transferred 2002)
- 20 Lake Wisconsin Addition, acquisition with Town of Merrimac 2004



Natural Heritage Land Trust Annual Report July 1, 2003–June 30, 2004



The Natural Heritage Land Trust is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of natural areas, farmland, and wildlife habitat in Dane County and the surrounding areas. To achieve our mission, we protect land primarily through land protection agreements (called conservation easements) with landowners. Occasionally, we purchase land to create nature preserves and parks. In addition, we work with community partnerships to develop and advance innovative land protection strategies. We also provide technical and fundraising assistance to groups working to protect areas important to them. The Land Trust was founded in 1983 as the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation. Since our inception, we have protected more than 3,000 acres of land, including prairies, wetlands, woodlands, and farms.

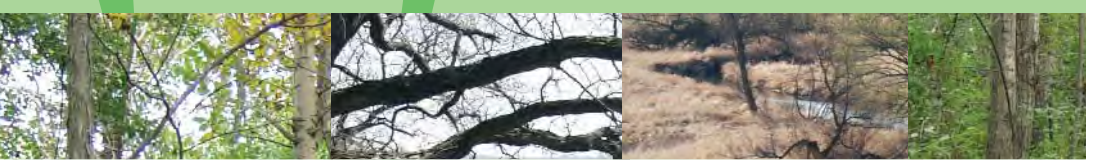


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Protected land in priority areas

In 2003/04, we focused our land protection efforts in two watersheds in Dane County: Black Earth Creek and Upper Sugar River.

Black Earth Creek Watershed

This watershed covers more than 100 square miles in Dane and Iowa counties. The valley is characterized by farmlands whose soils are rich and productive and surrounded by bluffs and rolling hills. Black Earth Creek is a cold-water fishery and draws trout fishers from throughout the nation.

Negotiated with landowners to protect 215 acres of important farmland near Cross Plains. We negotiated the language of a conservation easement with landowners who wanted to ensure that the most productive soils on their property remain in agricultural production. More than 60% of the soils on this property are classified as “prime” or as “statewide important,” according to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. In addition to meeting the goals of the landowners, protecting this property from development will also help protect Black Earth Creek, a regionally important trout fishery. We also raised the funding to pay for the easement.

Transferred restored wetlands to a state agency. After overseeing the restoration of 53 acres of wetlands along Garfoot Creek in 2001, we transferred the restored wetlands to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) in 2004, which in turn opened it to the public for hiking, fishing, hunting, and other outdoor recreational activities. Garfoot Creek is a critical tributary of Black Earth Creek.

Laid the groundwork to create a conservancy park and a trail corridor in the watershed. We worked with several parties to determine how to best structure an agreement that would ultimately result in the creation of a conservancy park and additional land for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

Upper Sugar River Watershed

Located in southwestern Dane County, this watershed encompasses more than 170 square miles. Farmland, a scenic rural landscape, and notable natural and recreational resources, including the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, Donald County Park, the Military Ridge State Trail, the Madison School Forest, and the Upper Sugar River Waterway Corridor, characterize this watershed.

Finalized our site conservation plan for the watershed. We developed and finalized our site conservation plan for the area. This plan will help us better target our land protection efforts and help guide the efforts of other organizations that created it. Although 17 organizations participated in the planning effort, our key partners include: Capitol Water Trails, Dane County Parks, Dane County Land Conservation Department, WI DNR, Town of Verona Open Space and Parks Commission, and the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association.

Worked with landowners to protect a farm near Verona. We continued negotiations with landowners to protect a farm along the Upper Sugar River. The Sugar River flows through the property—a conservation easement here would protect farmland and wetlands.

Provided technical and fundraising assistance to landowners, groups, and municipalities working to protect important areas outside of our priority areas.

Helped the Patrick Marsh Conservancy raise the requisite funds to purchase a 35-acre parcel of land within the Patrick Marsh Natural Resource Site near the City of Sun Prairie and negotiated the terms to purchase that land. The Patrick Marsh Conservancy is committed to protecting wildlife habitat around Patrick Marsh. The Conservancy also wants to expand educational and recreational opportunities around the Marsh. Last year, we received a grant from the Dane County Conservation Fund and from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program to purchase a parcel of property within the Natural Resource Site. We also negotiated the terms of the purchase with the landowner.

Collaborated with the Town of Dunn to protect farmland and wetlands. Through its Rural Preservation Program, the Town of Dunn placed a conservation easement on 68 acres that includes farmland and wetlands, and that is adjacent to other protected lands. As a co-holder of this easement, we will annually monitor the property to ensure land management activities comply with the terms of the easement. We now co-hold 13 conservation easements with the Town.

Assisted landowners and Dane County Parks in their work to enhance the protection of a National Natural Landmark and to protect and expand biking and hiking trails near the Village of Blue Mounds. We worked with interested parties to protect a 30-acre parcel of land around Cave of the Mounds, a National Natural

Landmark and important local business; preserve scenic vistas from the Military Ridge State Trail from possible development; and create a new trail that would connect the Military Ridge State Trail with Brigham County Park.

Loaned \$40,000 to the Town of Merrimac in Sauk County to purchase property on Lake Wisconsin. When the opportunity arose to purchase more than 8 acres of land with 550 feet of frontage on Lake Wisconsin, the Town of Merrimac quickly raised funds from a variety of sources. At the time the seller needed the funds, the Town was \$40,000 short and asked us for help. Because this purchase was a key step in a transaction that will ultimately protect 17 acres of land and 1/2 mile of undisturbed shoreline on highly developed Lake Wisconsin—thereby creating the largest public fishing and recreational site on the lake—we took the unusual step of providing a short-term loan to the Town to help them complete their purchase.

Finalized the language of a conservation easement for a parcel of land on Lake Wisconsin. We worked with three family members to develop a conservation easement that met their goals of protecting the natural characteristics of the property and maintaining a homestead with access to the lake. We also developed and received a grant for this easement from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Explored and advanced innovative land protection, management, and funding strategies through conservation partnerships and community networks.

Appointed to an advisory committee for the Attain Dane initiative. In early 2004, Dane County Executive, Kathleen Falk launched Attain Dane—a long-range plan aimed at preventing sprawl through a regional, comprehensive approach to housing, transportation and open space issues. This ambitious plan could change the way land is developed and conserved in Dane County and set a standard that could be replicated in other areas throughout the country. Falk appointed Executive Director Jim Welsh to serve on the technical advisory committee looking at the transfer of development rights component of this initiative.

Maintained our conservation easement monitoring program.

We monitored 23 parcels of land on which we hold conservation easements (many of which we co-hold with the Town of Dunn) to ensure compliance with the terms of each easement.



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