



**Annual Report**

**July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008**

**IN 2007-2008**

- A landmark purchase at Cherokee Marsh
- 5,000 acre mark passed
- Another parcel added to Patrick Marsh
- More farms protected

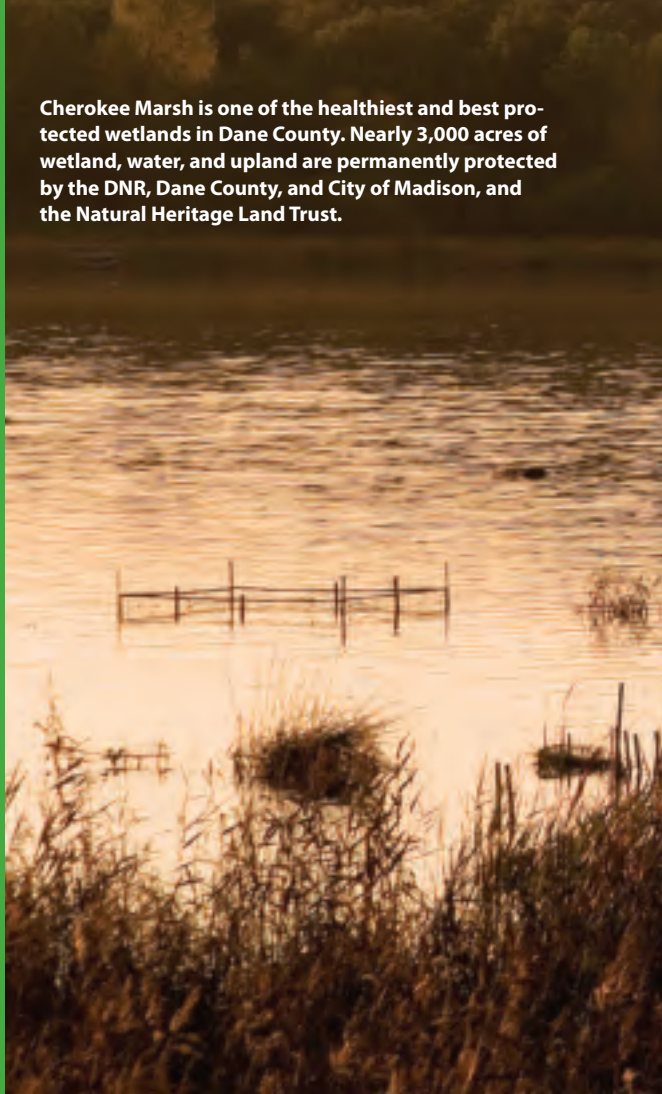


**T**he Natural Heritage Land Trust marked 25 years as an independent non-profit organization in 2008, which is a great accomplishment for any non-profit

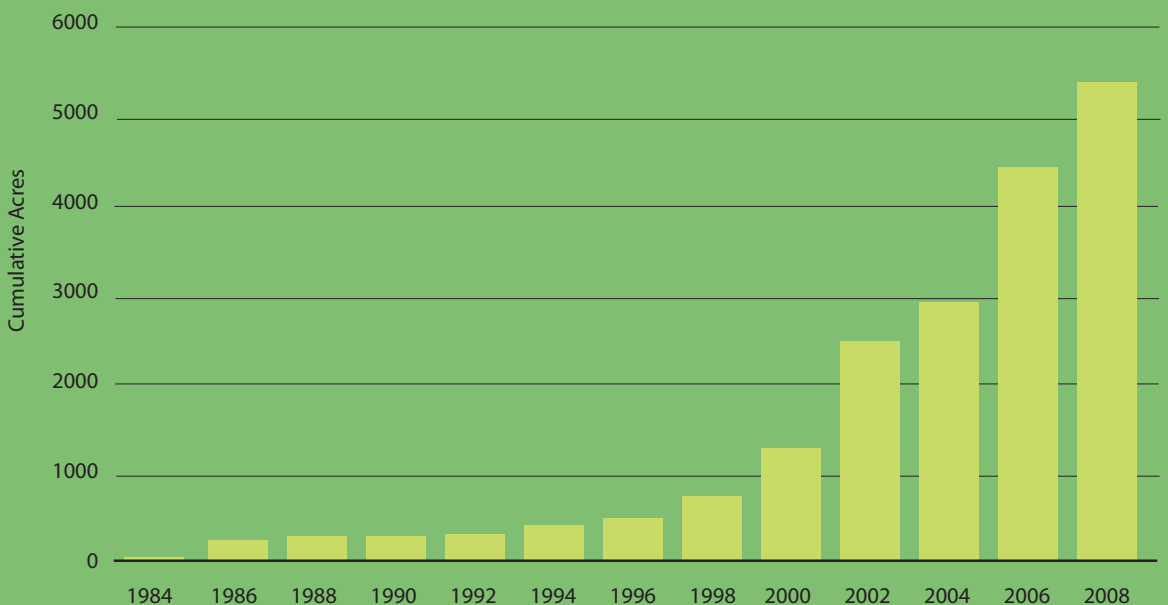
organization. But what makes this anniversary truly meaningful is the land we have permanently protected during that time. **Thanks to your support, we crossed the 5,000 acre mark this year by protecting some of the great places in our community,** like Cherokee Marsh, Patrick Marsh, and farmland in the Town of Dunn. In all, we added nearly 750 acres of permanently protected land and water to the long list of cherished places you have helped protect. Thank you very much for making this success possible.

Jim Welsh, Executive Director

**Cherokee Marsh is one of the healthiest and best protected wetlands in Dane County. Nearly 3,000 acres of wetland, water, and upland are permanently protected by the DNR, Dane County, and City of Madison, and the Natural Heritage Land Trust.**



### Natural Heritage Land Trust Permanently Protected Land (1983–2008)





## IN 2007-2008 we protected great places in south-central Wisconsin

**T**hanks to the leadership of the City of Madison and the landowners at Cherokee Park, Inc., we added 260 acres of marsh and upland to the city's **Cherokee Marsh** Conservation Park. Cherokee Marsh is Dane County's largest wetland, and one of the best remaining in the county. This acquisition is the largest conservation purchase in the city's history.

We purchased 22.5 acres on the south side of **Patrick Marsh**, adjacent to protected areas owned by the Land Trust and Dane County. A historic trail used by Native Americans crosses the property and in the future may be part of a new public trail circling the marsh east of Sun Prairie. The landowners generously sold the property to us below its appraised value.

This acquisition brings the total amount of protected land at the Patrick Marsh Natural Resource Area to 320 acres.

Thanks to the generosity of landowners Barbara and Brad Glass, we protected a 290-acre forested ridge and valley landscape along **Sneed Creek** south of

**Patrick Marsh is on the City of Sun Prairie's eastern doorstep.**





**A new sign announces the protection of the 53-acre Hickory Hill Conservancy Park in the Village of Cross Plains. (left-to-right standing: Mary Mirkes, Mike Schutz, Wayne and Janet Esser; kneeling: Michael Mirkes, Lee Swanson, and Kate Wiperman.)**

House on the Rock in Iowa County. The property includes a beautifully restored oak savanna, one of the rarest plant communities in the state and the nation. The Glasses donated the conservation easement to permanently limit development of the property. This project was completed in partnership with the Driftless Area Land Conservancy.

The Natural Heritage Land Trust has made a long-term commitment to land protection in the **Black Earth Creek** valley. We continued to meet and build relationships with valley landowners, increasing awareness about the conservation options the Land Trust provides. Sometimes this is accomplished at landowner drop-in sessions and sometimes by meeting to chat around a kitchen table. The Land Trust recently joined the Cross Plains Area Business Association in order to build stronger connections in the community.

The Land Trust and the Southern Wisconsin chapter of Trout Unlimited hosted work parties on public land along Black Earth Creek, clearing brush from the sides of the creek. About 1,800 feet of fish habitat was improved.



**Volunteer Stefanie Brouwer at a Black Earth Creek work party.**

## IN 2007-2008 we protected vital farm land

**O**ur region's farmland is among the best in the nation. This year, in partnership with the **Town of Dunn**, we protected a 96-acre farm, bringing the total number of farms protected in partnership with the town to 19, covering 2,542 acres. The latest farm to be protected sits between five other protected farms, creating an 800-acre swath of permanently protected farmland.

Adjacent to **Governor Dodge State Park**, we protected a 79-acre farm. The conservation easement was donated to the Land Trust by Anne Bachner to permanently protect the land she and her family have loved and stewarded for many years. The Bachner farm has gently rolling agricultural fields as well as a forest covering sandstone bluffs and a stream that feeds Mill Creek. The Bachner conservation easement permanently protects the land and buffers the state

park from incompatible development. This project was completed in partnership with the Driftless Area Land Conservancy.

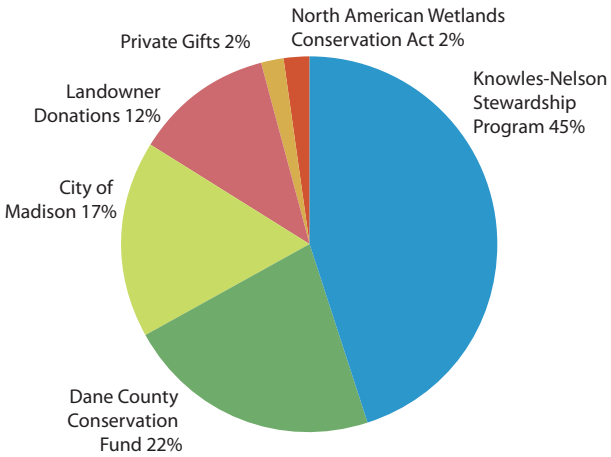
We also began new partnerships to protect farmland. We helped the **Town of Windsor** develop and begin to implement a purchase of development rights program for the town's very high-quality farmland east of the Village of DeForest. 21 farmers submitted applications in the initial round of applications last fall.

We assisted the **Town of Springfield** in the development of an innovative transfer of development rights program to protect farmland and encourage compact development west of Waunakee. Like the Town of Dunn's program, both programs are geared towards protecting farmland and the farm economy that is so important to our region.

The Natural Heritage Land Trust preserves high-quality farm land. The total acreage of farmland protected through the Land Trust – Town of Dunn collaboration is 2,542.



## IN 2007-2008 we ensured that land under conservation easements is permanently protected



### Funding for Land Protection

**\$4.6 million was provided by local, state, federal, private gifts, and landowner donations to protect almost 750 acres of important land and water in 2007-2008.**

**A** conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and the Land Trust that permanently restricts development. The Land Trust's job of land protection does not end when a conservation easement is signed; our signature hails the start of a long-term relationship between the Land Trust, the landowner, and the land. The Land Trust accepts the responsibility of ensuring that the land stays protected forever. Toward this end, the Land Trust has set aside funds to ensure the continued strength of our easement monitoring and defense program.

Each year, Land Trust staff contact landowners and inspect each easement-protected property to make sure that the terms of the conservation easement are being upheld. In 2007-2008, Jim Welsh and Kate Wiperman inspected 41 conservation easements.

### 25th Anniversary Celebration



**Some of the founders of the Natural Heritage Land Trust gathered in March at the Prairie Café and Bakery in Middleton to celebrate the Land Trust's first project — Wally Bauman Woods— completed 25 years ago on the shore of Lake Mendota. Standing left-to-right: Glenn Chambliss, Gail Shea, Joe Sensenbrenner, Howard Mead, Bill O'Connor, Nancy Mead; seated: Hugh Iltis, Sharon Clark Gaskill, Nancy Heiden, Diane Derouen, Vera Bauman.**



# THANK YOU to our members, donors and partners:

## July 1, 2007–June 30, 2008

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Anne Bachner  
City of Madison  
Dane County Conservation Fund  
Brad & Barbara Glass  
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**“We like Natural Heritage Land Trust because your projects are local. Other conservation organizations work across the country or across the state, but you work right here. That’s why you receive and will continue to receive our support.”**

***Rolf and Susan Wulfsberg  
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**You can permanently protect more cherished land. Please put the Natural Heritage Land Trust on the top of your charitable giving list in 2008.**



**2008 is the perfect year to make a year-end gift to the Land Trust. Any amount given above your 2007 donation will be doubled by the Bradshaw-Knight Foundation. Your tax-deductible gift by December 31, 2008 can go twice as far.** Call: 258-9797. Click: [www.nhlt.org](http://www.nhlt.org). Mail: 303 S. Paterson Street, Suite 6, Madison, WI 53703. Thanks!



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**“We feel privileged to support Natural Heritage Land Trust.  
The work of the Land Trust to preserve agricultural lands and  
natural areas is in line with our values.”**

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*We make every attempt to recognize and thank all of our members who contributed from 7/1/07-6/30/08. If your name was inadvertently left off our list, we apologize. Please call Martha Frey at 258-9797 to let us know.*

**President's Circle**

We are grateful for the financial stability that the President's Circle members provide to the Land Trust. President's Circle members contribute \$1,000 or more annually.

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Cheralyn Randall *in memory of Bast John & Carmen Wagner in memory of Marina Flood*

Dan & Trish Hagstrom *in memory of Sam Hagstrom*

William & Myra Ahern *in honor of Donald Muscavitch*

Marcia & Terry Weisensel *in memory of George Oster*

Tom & Peter Thurlow *in honor of paper route customers who recycled plastic bags*

Bill & Lorette Wambach *in memory of Harry Washkoske*

Kate & Matt Wipperman *in memory of Ken Zander*

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*Thank you to the following businesses and individuals for their generous donations:*

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The Shoe Box

Sundance 608 Cinemas

Vermont Valley Community Farm

Wisconsin Historical Society

Carla Wright

Zane Williams

## Financial Report

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

Between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008, the Land Trust received \$195,588 for operations and spent \$223,667 for operations. In addition, the Land Trust received \$4,136,691 for the acquisition of 748 acres of land or conservation easements. (Information on the sources of these funds is provided on page 6.)

Income for operations	
Contributions	\$146,033
Rent and other payments	\$3,833
Service fees	\$26,911
Other income	\$18,811
	<hr/>
	\$195,588
Expenses for operations	
Program Services	\$137,847
Outreach and education	
Easement monitoring	
Doing land deals	
Land management	
Management & Administration	\$41,473
Fundraising	\$44,347
	<hr/>
	\$223,667

The operating deficit of \$28,079 was financed from reserve funds set aside for that purpose.

Please contact us if you would like a copy of audited financial statements for July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008. The Land Trust's federal tax returns (990s) are available on Guidestar ([www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org)), which provides information to the public on non-profit organizations.

*Thank you to our members, donors, and partners July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008*

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Natural Heritage  
LAND TRUST

The 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.



**Natural Heritage**  
**LAND TRUST**

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