

10th Annual Stewardship Awards Celebration slated for May 6th

Kathleen Falk to give keynote on "Attain Dane"



Kathleen Falk,
Dane County
Executive

The Natural Heritage Land Trust will hold its 10th Annual Stewardship Awards Banquet on Thursday, May 6 at the Madison Concourse Hotel in Madison. The festivities start at 5:30 pm and will conclude around 8:30 pm.

We hold this event to honor those who have made significant contributions in the conservation of natural areas or open spaces in Dane County and surrounding areas.

This year, we will present Stewardship Awards to the two-person partnership of Glenda Denniston and Roma Lenehan, who steward the natural areas on UW-Madison's campus. We'll also recognize the Town of Merrimac for its acquisition of land on Lake Wisconsin. For their long-term commitment to conservation, we'll honor: Ken LePine, former Dane County Parks Director; Phil Lewis, Director of the Academy of Sustainable Design and Emeritus Professor of Landscape Architecture at UW-Madison; and Jean Meanwell, a founder of Natural Heritage Land Trust and of

Gathering Waters Conservancy.

Kathleen Falk, Dane County Executive, will give the keynote address. She will talk about "Attain Dane." Attain Dane is a long-range plan aimed at preventing sprawl through a regional, comprehensive approach to housing, transportation and open space issues. It would be a great tool to help protect open spaces throughout Dane County.

This event – which also marks our 20th Anniversary – will also include a brief update on our work, a silent auction, dinner, and engaging conversation with people who care about the land. Tickets are \$30 and must be purchased by Friday, April 30th.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please email Meg Nelson at meg@nhlt.org or call her at 258-9797.

**Wetland restoration
in progress in the
Black Earth Creek
Watershed**

Land Trust Transfers Restored Wetlands to the State

Wetlands will help protect Garfoot Creek and Black Earth Creek

Last month, the Natural Heritage Land Trust transferred a 62-acre parcel of land that includes restored wetlands to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The property has approximately 4,400 feet of frontage on Garfoot Creek, a tributary to Black Earth Creek in the Black Earth Creek Watershed. Garfoot Creek is classified as an Exceptional Resource Water. This means the stream has excellent water quality, high recreational and aesthetic value, and valued fisheries.

Black Earth Creek is a key trout stream that supports a naturally reproducing population of brown trout. Trout Unlimited includes Black Earth Creek on its list of

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**Natural Heritage
LAND TRUST**

303 S Paterson St, Ste 6
Madison, WI 53703
608.258.9797
www.nhlt.org

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Land Trust elects new officers and welcomes new staff and interns

The land trust board installed new officers in January. The new officers are: Kathy F. Pielsticker, President; Jeffrey J. Strobel, Vice-President; Terry Taylor, Treasurer; and Eugene Roark, Secretary. Each previously served on the board and each brings important skills and experience to their new position.

When they are not working hard for us, **Kathy** serves as the Executive Director of the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters and the Wisconsin Conservation Voters Institute. She lives in rural Lodi with her husband, Bill, who owns Pielsticker Photos. **Jeff** is the Graphics Coordinator at the UW-Extension Environmental Resources Center Publications Unit, which produces natural resources education publications. Jeff enjoys hunting, fishing, and selling antiques. **Terry** is First Vice President and a commercial lender with First Business Bank. He and his wife, Karen, enjoy a variety of outdoor recreational activities. **Eugene** is retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. He is a founder and former chair of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. Eugene also serves on the boards of the Wisconsin Wetlands Association and the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association. He and his wife Jean enjoy canoeing, bird watching and managing their woodland in Richland County.

In addition to our new officers, we welcomed two new staff people last fall. **Linda Franklin** is our new office manager. In addition to her half-time position here, you can hear her on WNWC FM. Her pleasant voice is an indicator of her vocal talent – look for her to perform during the opening celebration for the Overture Center. **Meg Nelson** is our new development director. She has worked with non-profit organizations – mostly conservation groups – for nearly 20 years. She likes helping groups raise the money they need to accomplish

their mission. She also enjoys a number of outdoor activities; an avid canoeist, it's possible you'll meet her on one of Wisconsin's rivers.

We currently have three interns. **Matthew Burczyk** is drafting the management plan for Wilke Prairie. **Dana Moore** is working on the Stewardship Awards Banquet. **Lisa Streit** is updating our conservation easement monitoring documents. Earlier this year, we bid farewell to work study student **Jill Leary**, who left us to accept a position with the Black Earth Creek Watershed Association.

Site Conservation Plan to guide land protection work in priority areas

We're now using Site Conservation Planning to help us develop a comprehensive land protection plan in each of our priority areas. Our priority areas include three watersheds – Black Earth Creek, Upper Sugar River, and Token Creek.

"Because our priority areas are large watersheds, we need a way to identify those tracts of land that are most important to protect," said Jim Welsh, executive director of the land trust. "Site conservation planning will help us do this and we are currently working to finalize a plan for the Upper Sugar River."

Site Conservation Planning – which was developed by The Nature Conservancy – provides a framework to assess information about a site and develop a plan to protect it. In site conservation planning, an interdisciplinary team of people identifies conservation values, threats to those values, and the source(s) of those threats within a geographically defined area. Based on this assessment, the team identifies actions to reduce or eliminate those threats or to enhance the conservation values. The team also identifies ways to measure the success of the actions it proposes to take.

Wetlands continued from page 1

Top 100 Trout Streams in the nation.

"The protection of this tract is a high priority for the Black Earth Creek Fishery Area and helps protect the water quality of Garfoot Creek, a valuable trout stream and a main tributary to Black Earth Creek," said Andy Morton, Lower Wisconsin Water Team Leader with the DNR.

The Land Trust purchased this 62-parcel of land in 2001 with matching grants from the State Stewardship Program and the Dane County Conservation Fund. In 2003, we restored 53 acres from cropland to wetland by breaking the underground drainage tile, creating scrapes (small, wet areas) for habitat, and seeding the area with native plant species. We could not have accomplished this work without the help of the Natural Resources Conservation Service Wetland Reserve Program (which spearheaded the on-the-ground restoration) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. We transferred this land to the state to ensure the land will be accessible to the public.

Land Trust makes \$40,000 loan to the Town of Merrimac to purchase land

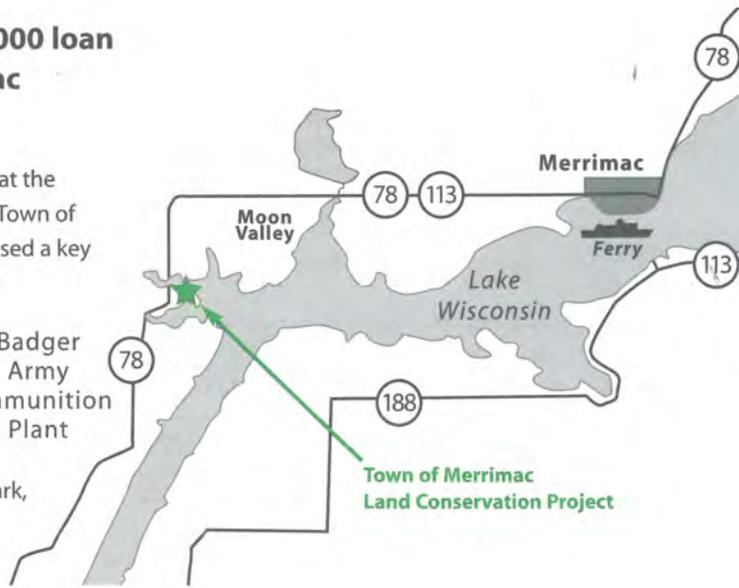
With a little help from its friends at the Natural Heritage Land Trust, the Town of Merrimac in Sauk County purchased a key parcel of land on Lake Wisconsin late last year.

The Town will use this parcel – which includes forested land and undeveloped shoreline – to maintain open space, create a park, and provide public access to recreational opportunities on the lake. This purchase is a key step in a larger, multi-party transaction that will ultimately protect 17 acres of land and ½ mile of undeveloped shoreline on Lake Wisconsin.

The property provides habitat for several wildlife species including bald eagles, great blue herons, and deer. Part of the property is deep-water frontage and provides good shore fishing opportunities for walleye, bass, panfish, and crappies. The offshore environment provides excellent habitat for bluegill, northern pike, musky, and sturgeon.

“We’re thrilled that we could acquire this land. We worked with a lot of people to get this done,” said Tim McCumber, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer for the Town of Merrimac. “We are particularly grateful to the Natural Heritage Land Trust which provided short-term financing at a critical juncture.”

Badger Army Ammunition Plant



Town of Merrimac Land Conservation Project

According to Executive Director Jim Welsh, the land trust doesn't typically make loans, but made an exception here.

“The opportunity to help the Town protect land with high-conservation and recreational value was just too good to pass up,” said Welsh. He noted that the lion's share of the funding came from the DNR's Lake Protection program which made a \$195,000 grant to the Town for this parcel.

Between this acquisition and a purchase of adjacent land by the DNR, more than 12 acres of land and over 1,000 feet of shoreline will be available for public use. This land adjoins the five-acre Badger Army Ammunitions Plant (BAAP) Pumping Station on Lake Wisconsin. It's likely that the BAAP site will be deeded to DNR. If this happens, the combination of all these parcels would result in the largest public fishing and recreational site on the lake.

A Vision for the Verona Sugar River Valley

The Town of Verona Open Space and Parks Commission, together with the Natural Heritage Land Trust, the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association, and Capitol Water Trails, wants to protect the unique identity of the Verona Sugar River Valley.

This brochure describes our vision for the valley – it includes working farms, a clean river, and a water-based trail for all to enjoy.



To learn more about the project or to get involved with one of the partners, e-mail Kate Wipperman at kate@nhlt.org or call her at 258-9797 to request a copy of the brochure.



- \$1,000 \$500
- \$250 \$100
- \$50 \$25
- \$ other
- Check here if this is a business membership
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Please help us protect natural areas close to home!

Name _____

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City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Please make check payable to: **Natural Heritage Land Trust**

We need your help to acquire the following items:

Filing Cabinets
(regular; not legal size)

- A two-drawer and
- A four-drawer

Task/Office Chairs (4)

- Ergonomically correct please! (or at least posture-friendly)

Lap-top Computer

- Windows 2000 or better

You can help us acquire these items by:

- Donating a "gently-used" item of your own.
- Identifying a vender who will give us a "bargain sale."
- Writing a check for one or more of the items.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 19
Monday

Token Creek Watershed Association's Spring Forum

6:00 pm at the Bristol Town Hall, just east of Sun Prairie
7:00 pm program; speakers include Mark Martin and Scott Stewart
Event is free and open to the public
Contact Jennie Nuese at 608-334-8941 or see www.tokencreek.org for more information and directions

April 24
Saturday

Black Earth Creek Watershed Association's Earth Day Clean-up

Contact Jill Leary at 608-265-6712 or becwa_coordinator@yahoo.com for more information

May 1
Saturday

Black Earth Creek Watershed Association's "Passport to your Watershed"

11:00 am – 2:30 pm in downtown Cross Plains
(Main Street/Highway 14; across from the Mobil station)
Includes educational activities and displays to help you learn about the watershed
Contact Jill Leary at 608-265-6712 or becwa_coordinator@yahoo.com for more information

May 6
Thursday

Natural Heritage Land Trust's Stewardship Awards Celebration

5:30 pm – 8:30 pm at the Madison Concourse Hotel
Event features Awards Ceremony, Kathleen Falk speaking on "Attain Dane," dinner, and silent auction
Tickets are \$30 and must be purchased by April 30th
Contact Meg Nelson at meg@nhlt.org or 608-258-9797 for tickets or more information

May 16
Sunday

Wildflower Walk in Wally Bauman Woods

Co-sponsored by Friends of the Campus Natural Areas and the Natural Heritage Land Trust
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Meet at 3200 Lake Mendota Drive
(limited parking available along Lake Mendota Drive)
Learn how the land trust helped protect this area while looking for birds and wildflowers
Contact Glenda Denniston at 608-231-1530 for more information

July 10 & 24,
August 7 & 21,
and
September 11
(Saturdays)

Workdays: Clearing the Upper Sugar River

Co-sponsored by Capitol Water Trails and the Natural Heritage Land Trust
9:00 am to 1:00 pm Meet at the Verona Town Hall at 335 N Nine Mound Road in Verona
Bring work gloves, work clothes, and a canoe if you have one
We'll be clearing brush along the river
Please contact Steve Falter at capwtrtrls@tds.net or 608-223-0995 if you plan to help (to ensure canoe space) or for more information. See www.mailbag.com/users/cwt
Volunteers need to be at least 14 years old



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