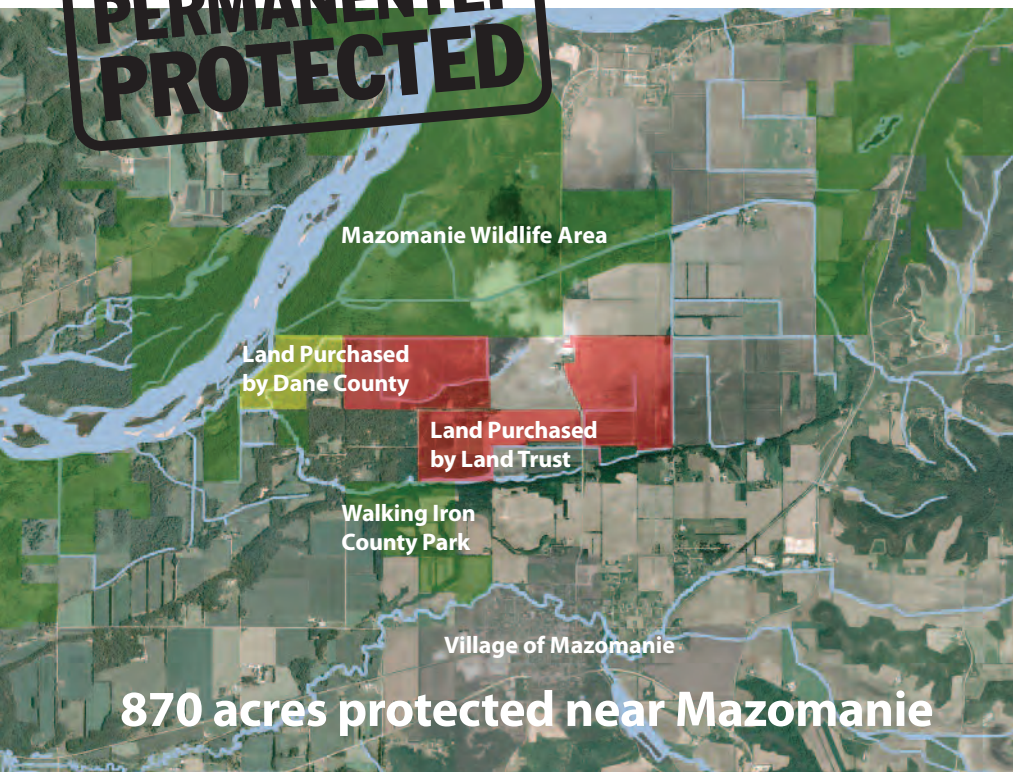


landscene

A publication of the Natural Heritage Land Trust Spring 2009

**PERMANENTLY
PROTECTED**



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On December 18th, in partnership with Dane County, the Natural Heritage Land Trust made its largest conservation purchase in its 25 year history—870 acres of oak barrens, forest, and farmland adjacent to a county park and a state wildlife area in the Town of Mazomanie. This acquisition was four years in the making. In conjunction with additional acreage purchased simultaneously from the same landowner by Dane County, it resulted in the permanent protection of 1,070 acres of land stretching three miles from the Wisconsin River to east of County Highway Y.

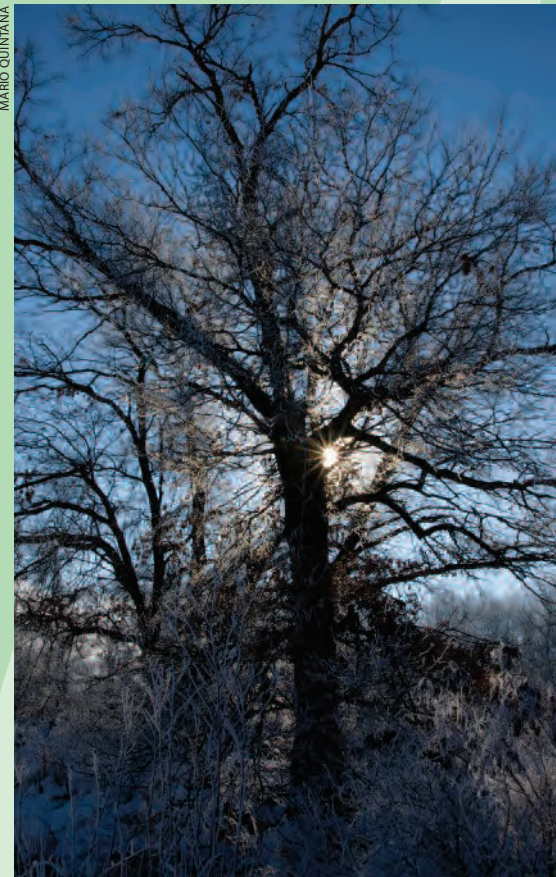
The property sits between Walking Iron County Park, Mazomanie Wildlife Area, and Mazomanie Bottoms State

Natural Area, and it links together thousands of acres of conservation land. Turkey, pheasant, deer, cottontail rabbits, mergansers, and grebes are abundant on the property. It also provides habitat for rare fish, plants, and birds.

The goal of the acquisition is to protect and restore important wildlife habitat, connect the county park and state wildlife area, and open up more land for nature-based recreation. The property will be transferred to Dane County and open to the public for hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking, and cross-country skiing. The low-lying farmland will be restored to wetland habitat and the rest will stay in farming.

The Dane County Conservation Fund made this acquisition possible. ■

MARIO QUINTANA



Sneak Peek Hike on Saturday, May 16 1:00 pm

Here is your first chance to check out the new Walking Iron Natural Resource Area. You will see a floodplain forest along the Wisconsin River, oak barrens, and a really big slippery elm tree. This is a moderately strenuous off-trail hike for people ready to get their feet wet and clothes dirty.

Co-Leaders: Doris Rusch, Nicole Staskowski, and Jim Welsh. Cost: Free. Bring water and a snack. Wear hiking boots or sturdy shoes that can get wet. The hike will take place rain or shine except in extreme conditions. Duration: 3 hours. Pre-registration required and space is limited. Contact Martha Frey

at 258-9797
martha@nhlt.org.
Sign up today!
Special thanks to
Vermont Valley for
sponsoring the
Sneak Peek hike. ■



Members Meet Bradshaw-Knight Challenge

Whether it be joining as a new member or increasing your personal contribution for the year, THANK YOU to all who participated in the Bradshaw-Knight Foundation Challenge. We did it!

New Members

Cathy Acker
 Marilyn Alfini
 Anonymous (2)
 Bruce Bauman & Emily Bair
 Jeff Berg
 David Bernier
 James & Marjorie Bogacz
 Kenneth Boldt
 Brian & Jennifer Bonti
 Barbara Borns
 Chet Bradley
 Catherine Buege
 Kelly & Mayre Lee Clifton
 Cross Plains Pharmacy
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 Jeffrey Endres
 Miles & Amy Epstein
 John Evenson
 Fran & Sue Faber
 Amanda Falch
 Frank Feit & Christine Fleming
 Philip Fish
 Ellen Fisher
 Marie Fraser
 Jim & Kris Frater
 Bob & Gail Freedman
 The Geo Group
 Violet Gertsch
 Barb Gibbons-Engel
 Anna Goebel
 Don Grubb
 Thomas Haag
 Gordon Hale
 Gil & Karen Herman
 Jacki & John Hershberger
 Pat Hitchcock
 Anthony Ives
 David Johnson
 John Kessler & Mara Zimmerman
 Rebecca & Kyle Ketelsen
 Martha Kilgour
 Helen Kliabaner
 James Knickmeyer
 Robert & Virginia Kominiak
 Kurt Krumholz
 Eva Kubinski
 Jack Ladinsky
 David Lee
 Madelyn Leopold
 Lawrence & Helen LeRoy
 Sharon Lezberg
 Karen Lundquist
 Julie Logan
 Joe Lusson & Aleen Tierney
 Lisa Martin
 P. Mc Connell
 Bonnie McIntyre
 Carson Mettel
 Roberta Meyer
 Nina & Jacob Mills
 Mike & Mary Mirkes
 Gregory Motl & Laurel Brooks
 Joseph Nilson
 Bill & Deb Noltner
 Jan Norsetter & Jon Sutcliffe
 Jefren Olsen
 Julie Olsen & Tim Valdez

Karen Osborne
 Dan & Judy Peterson
 Andy Pfeiffer
 Bryan Pierce
 Chad Pierick
 Gaylord Plummer
 Caleb Pourchot
 Pat Pourchot
 Mary Powell
 Joyce & Irwin Probststein
 K. Rasmussen
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 Bryan & Diane Ross
 Pat & Will Rossmann
 Robert & Virginia Salisbury
 Carol Samuel
 Monica Sauter & Peter Harnish
 Alfred & Alta Schroeder
 Wes Slaymaker & Diana Cohen
 Helen Slavens
 Glenn & Mary Spaay
 Judith Stang
 Ralph Stockhausen
 Lee & Jacqui Swanson
 Ernie & Sharon Thieding
 John Tweddale
 Chris & Karen Upper
 Kathy & Scott Varese
 Jeff Vercauteren
 John Vignali
 Marc Vitale
 Vicki & Charles Wangerin
 West Side Garden Club
 Dorothy Wheeler
 Andrew & Angela Wilcox-Hull
 Arlene Wolek
 Levi Wood
 Linda Wooldridge
 Fred & Dyana Worrell
 Josie Young
 Marilyn Young
 Phyllis Young
 Nancy Zucker & Michael Burns

Renewing Members who increased their personal contributions for the year

Karen Agee & Scott Fulton
 Bill & Myra Ahern
 Constance Anderson
 Anonymous
 Norman & Lucie Arendt
 Edith & Deane Arny
 Steven & Mary Banovetz
 Mike & Renee Bashel
 Walter Bauman Family
 Jim & Nancy Baxter
 Marvin & Ellouise Beatty
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 Carmen & John Wagner
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 Gary Werner & Melanie Lord
 Maura Whitmore
 Tripp & Nancy Widder
 H.K. Wiesner, Jr.
 Dan Wisnewski
 Michael & Barbara Wollmer
 Bob & Nan Woodburn
 Carla Wright
 Patricia Zastrow
 Marjorie Zimmerman

Bob Bolz—A Remembrance

The Madison Community has lost a great citizen; the Natural Heritage Land Trust has lost a great friend. Robert M. Bolz died on January 19, 2009. His contributions to the Community have been well-documented; perhaps less well known are his contributions to the Land Trust.

Bob Bolz was a founding member of the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation, which later became the Natural Heritage Land Trust. He served on the board from 1983 to 1995. In the mid-eighties, the Land Trust was a struggling organization trying to raise money, form partnerships with the city and the county, and educate the public



Bob and Anne Bolz

about conservation easements. I remember that Bob and ornithologist Joe Hickey were always reminding us that this was a new organization, that growing would not only take hard work but take time, and that eventually it would all work out. And it has.

I remember being part of a small group of board members out with Bob looking at proposed conservation easements. One of our stops was a magnificent hilltop outside of Waunakee where you could see all the way across Lake Mendota to the State Capitol. It was a magical place. In 2001, a conservation easement on that hilltop and the surrounding 10 acres were donated to the Land Trust by the Bolz family.

I remember when the Bolz Lifetime Achievement Award was set up in honor of Bob and Anne Bolz and the first time it was presented in 2004. It is a fitting tribute to both of them: people who care about preserving the woods, wetlands, and open spaces of Dane County. They also established an endowment for the Land Trust through the Eugenie Mayer Bolz Family Foundation to support the daily operations of the Natural Heritage Land Trust.

Former board president Mike Slavney said it for all of us: "Bob was a steady voice of sound judgment and leadership for our organization". He certainly was generous, considerate, and a devoted conservationist as well. We will miss him. ■

—Jean Meanwell, Founding Board Member and past Board President

—Jean Meanwell, Founding Board Member and past Board President

Thank You

- Shirley Droste and Eileen Dresser for preparing membership mailings
- Andy Pfeiffer for uploading our photos to Flickr
- Caleb Pourchot for providing database consulting
- Mario Quintana for more great photography

Black Earth Creek valley from Festge County Park



Workdays and Hikes

Work parties at Black Earth Creek: March 14, March 28, April 25, May 9 (Saturdays) Please join the Land Trust, the local chapter of Trout Unlimited, and the DNR for these workdays, which start at 8:00 am and go until noon. See the news and events tab of www.nhlt.org for details.

Work parties on the Ice Age Trail at Hickory Hill:

March 21 and April 4 (Saturdays) Please join the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation for these workdays on or adjacent to land the Land Trust helped protect. Work starts at 9:00 am; stay as long as you like; work will continue until 3:00 pm. See the news and events tab of www.nhlt.org for details.

Frog Walk at Cherokee Marsh on Thursday, April 30, 6:00 pm

Welcome spring with an evening hike at Cherokee Marsh. Listen for chorus frogs, spring peepers, and wood frogs.

Co-Leaders: Mary Binkley, Nicole Staskowski and Jim Welsh. Cost: Free. Bring flashlight. Dress for wet conditions—wear hiking boots or sturdy shoes. The hike will take place rain or shine except in extreme conditions. Duration: 90 minutes

Invite a friend to join you for the Frog Walk. (Over 40% of members learned about the Land Trust from a friend.) Pre-registration required and spaces limited. Contact Martha Frey at 258-9797 or martha@nhlt.org. Sign up today! Special thanks to Fontana for sponsoring the Frog Walk. ■



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LAND TRUST

Conservation where you live

303 S Paterson St, Suite 6
Madison, WI 53703

www.nhlt.org

You helped:

- protect 870 acres between Walking Iron County Park and Mazomanie Wildlife Area
- meet our challenge grant and recruit 120 new members

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.

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Vice President

Carla Wright

Treasurer

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Martha Frey

Membership &

Administrative Assistant

Mary Schwoch



Ray Merrill (l), Richard Merrill (r), and Gretchen Merrill (c) in 1950 on Wildcat Bluff with the Wisconsin River in the background.

In the Works: Protection of Wildcat Bluff

The Natural Heritage Land Trust is working with a Columbia County family to protect a beautiful bluff on the Wisconsin River. The bluff has been in the

Richard Merrill family for 80 years. Richard approached us in 2007 to see if we could help his family achieve their goal of protecting the bluff.

Wildcat Bluff is an impressive part of the Wisconsin River landscape at the upper end of Lake Wisconsin in Columbia County. Boaters heading upstream enjoy views of the 160' tall bluff, just north of the heavily developed area around Tipperary Point. Wildcat Bluff will be the Land Trust's fifth project on the Wisconsin River.

The Land Trust will help the Merrill family protect the bluff and 1,750 feet of shoreline this spring through a conservation easement which will permanently restrict development of the property. The Land Trust will annually monitor the property to ensure that its natural beauty will be enjoyed by future generations, just as the Merrills intend. ■

Personal Legacy = Land Legacy

Please remember the Natural Heritage Land Trust in your will.

Membership Form

Please fill out this form and return it to Natural Heritage Land Trust, 303 S. Paterson St., Suite 6, Madison, WI 53703.

If you prefer to donate online, go to www.nhlt.org.

New Renewal Other \$60 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Payment Method: Check enclosed (payable to Natural Heritage Land Trust) Bill my credit card: Visa Mastercard

Name on card _____ Card number _____ Exp. Date _____

To make a credit card donation by phone, please call 608-258-9797. Contributions are tax-deductible as provided for by law.