In September, Natural Heritage Land Trust, in partnership with Dane County, completed a 45-acre conservation easement that permanently protects and creates public access to over one mile of a newly restored stretch of Black Earth Creek just east of Mazomanie. The easement is part of an ambitious project to develop the first segment of the Good Neighbor Trail between Mazomanie and Middleton. A partnership of local governments and non-profit groups is spearheading the trail effort, which includes restoring the creek, reducing erosion along the stream bank, and reconnecting the creek to its floodplain.

The transformation of this stretch of Black Earth Creek has been nothing short of amazing. What was once a deep, straight channel behind a dam has been restored into a meandering stream with a gravelly bottom and gently sloping banks. “It’s the best thing that’s ever happened to this farm,” says landowner Fred Wolf. “The Wolf family is really proud of what we’ve been able to do to restore this beautiful creek and make it available to the public,” says Wolf, who has championed the creek restoration and trail project for many years. “This land doesn’t belong to me. I might hold the title, but this place should be here for everyone to enjoy.”

This easement is our 10th project in the Black Earth Creek valley, which is a priority conservation area for Natural Heritage Land Trust. Over the last decade, we have permanently protected over 760 acres of important lands in this iconic landscape in western Dane County.

Our thanks go to Fred Wolf and his family, whose generosity made this project possible. Funding came from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and Natural Heritage Land Trust members.
When we completed the acquisition of the Wolf conservation and trail easement along Black Earth Creek in September, I was reminded that accomplishments like these are built on the vision and hard work of many people. Natural Heritage Land Trust member Connie Threinen heard about the completion of the Wolf easement and wrote me: “This news pleases me very much. Many years ago – probably 48 or 50 – my husband had a Boy Scout troop here in Middleton, and he, a fisheries biologist with DNR, had his troop of 15 or so boys go out to Black Earth Creek and work to strengthen the banks. I have forgotten exactly what they did, but I think the troop went out there 4 or 5 times on that project. I can hardly believe it was that long ago… I think it was the first effort ever made to protect the creek.”

Connie’s email put it well: the conservation of cherished places doesn’t happen by accident. Indeed, over our three decades of success (Natural Heritage Land Trust turns thirty in 2013), Natural Heritage Land Trust has taken root in ground well-prepared by many thoughtful and hard-working individuals. With our firm foundation, effective organization, and clear mission, I look forward to what we all can accomplish in the years to come.

— Jim Welsh, Executive Director

This year Natural Heritage Land Trust completed four land protection projects—permanently protecting 429 acres in four different areas—and managed land at our three nature preserves.

At Anthony Branch Fisheries and Wildlife Area we received the donation of a permanent conservation easement on a working farm. The 181-acre farm is at the headwaters of Anthony Branch; its large spring flows into the adjacent 1,000-acre complex of wetlands and uplands contained in the state Fisheries and Wildlife Area.

At Allen Creek Wetlands State Natural Area just south of Fort Atkinson we purchased 16.5 acres of sedge meadow, savanna, pond, and upland; this is the first acquisition of land at this new state natural area.

Between Jefferson and Cambridge, we helped Jefferson County place an agricultural conservation easement on the Rod Lea farm. Because of its high-quality soils, Rod’s 221-acre farm was the highest-ranking farm considered by the state’s Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) program.

East of the Wisconsin Dells, we purchased the last ten acres of privately-owned shoreline at Amey Pond Wildlife Refuge, a 225-acre DNR wildlife property that provides nesting and foraging habitat for wood ducks, coots, and mallards. In May, we donated the property to the state for the public’s use and enjoyment.

In April, we conducted a prescribed burn at Wilke Prairie Preserve just north of Waunakee to enhance the prairie and wetland habitat at this 40-acre nature preserve given to us by Hazel Knudson in 1994.

Our “Prairie Partners” summer crew worked for us each Tuesday this summer at Westport Drumlin clearing non-native invasive shrubs like buckthorn and bush honeysuckle from underneath the oak savanna on the drumlin. The five-person crew also posted the boundaries of the 214-acre natural area and counted prairie bush clover plants, a federally-threatened species that has its largest population in the state at Westport Drumlin.

Natural Heritage Land Trust volunteers conducted two work parties at Patrick Marsh on the east side of Sun Prairie, continuing our six-year effort to restore an overgrown savanna.

We made our annual visits to the 53 conservation easements we hold on farmland, streambanks, and scenic areas throughout southcentral Wisconsin. The property inspections and meetings with the landowners help ensure that the landowners’ conservation goals for their property (and the public investment that often comes with it), are always upheld.
Quercus Land Stewardship Services performed a prescribed burn at Wilke Prairie Preserve just north of Waunakee on April 7, 2012.

Allison Schmidt was one of our five-person “Prairie Partners” crew who cleared brush at Westport Drumlin this summer.

In March Natural Heritage Land Trust purchased the last ten acres of privately-owned shoreline at Amey Pond.

Natural Heritage Land Trust introduces new land stewardship database

This summer, Natural Heritage Land Trust Conservation Specialist Caleb Pourchot demonstrated a new land stewardship database at the Wisconsin Land Trust Retreat sponsored by Gathering Waters Conservancy. The year before, Caleb had seen an opportunity to improve Natural Heritage Land Trust’s processes for land owner contact, conservation easement monitoring, and land purchasing. With support from Executive Director Jim Welsh, Caleb planned, designed and implemented the new land stewardship database. According to Jim, “we have seen many benefits from modernizing our land stewardship systems.

First and foremost, the new database improves institutional memory.” Separately, Bryan Pierce, Executive Director of Northwoods Land Trust, was looking to add land stewardship functionality to his existing database. Through a partnership with Gathering Waters Conservancy, he commissioned Natural Heritage Land Trust to develop a second generation land stewardship database. The new database will become available to all land trusts in the state soon.

Caleb sat down with Membership Director Martha Frey and talked about the new land stewardship database.

Martha: How does this new land stewardship database help a land trust do its job?

Caleb: The process of taking a land conservation project from the point of initial landowner contact to completion has a hundred little steps. The new database takes that process and makes it easier to track. It organizes the information in a way that will make it easier for future land trust staff to sort out the history of any project. Before the database, there were a lot of different spreadsheets and folders full of paper notes to contend with.

Martha: Regarding conservation easement monitoring, how does the new land stewardship database help a land trust?

Caleb: This database allows us to track which easements need to be monitored and if there are issues we need to follow up on from prior visits. It keeps track of the changes in land ownership and it keeps the complete history of the easement in one place. It improves the quality of our conservation easement stewardship by ensuring that things don’t fall through the cracks.

Martha: What else should our members know about the new land stewardship database?

Caleb: One of the most important functions of the database is to preserve our institutional memory. Land Trusts make promises to landowners to be around forever. If we are going to make good on those promises, we need tools that help preserve the full history of our conservation projects.

Caleb Pourchot joined the staff of Natural Heritage Land Trust in 2007. To read more about Caleb, see Caleb’s profile under “who we are” at our website at www.nhlt.org.
Financial Report

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

Between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012, the Land Trust received $292,071 for operations and spent $296,636 for operations. The difference of $4,565 came from reserve funds that support the operations of Natural Heritage Land Trust.

Income for operations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership Contributions</td>
<td>$183,134</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consulting fees</td>
<td>$21,082</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$57,098</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Distribution</td>
<td>$13,954</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rental income</td>
<td>$16,803</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$292,071</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Expenses for operations

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Personnel</td>
<td>$188,776</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land Management</td>
<td>$40,567</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional services (accounting, etc.)</td>
<td>$18,724</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>General and Administrative</td>
<td>$48,569</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$296,636</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$1.05 million was provided by state and federal grants and landowner donations to protect 429 acres of important land and water in 2011-2012.

Each $1 of your investment in Natural Heritage Land Trust returned almost $6 of land permanently protected this year.

Please contact us if you would like a copy of our audited financial statements for July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012. The Land Trust’s federal tax returns (990s) are available on Guidestar (www.guidestar.org).

We welcome stock gifts

We welcome stock gifts in September 2012 alone, members contributed thousands of dollars of stock to support local land conservation. Stock gift donors receive a tax receipt from Natural Heritage Land Trust for the full value of the stock gift. Call 258-9797 or email Martha@nhlt.org to request the simple instructions for making stock gift.
Thank You to our members, donors, & partners!

Leverage: Each $1 of your investment in Natural Heritage Land Trust returned almost $6 of land permanently protected this year. This list is a wonderful testament to people's commitment to the land and to Natural Heritage Land Trust.

$20,000 - $25,000
Jim & Rumi O'Brien

$10,000 - $19,999
Richard Mazess

$5,000 - $9,999
Dan & Natalie Erdman

$2,000 - $4,999
Douglas & Sherry Caves
Chabot Family Foundation
Sherren Clark
Brad & Barbara Glass
Lawrence J. Hitch
Government Policy Solutions
Stan Kanter
Martha Lound
Cary & Scott Reich
William & Gail Van Haren
Marc Vitale & Darcy Kind

$1,000 - $1,999
Anonymous
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Tom Bergamini
Anne Bolz
Lou & Nancy Bruch
Dana & Pat Chabot
Michael & Shelley Dubis
Patrick & Lloyd Eagan
Jon & Tracy Filter
Marie Fraser
Martha Frey & John Mason
Joy & Rob Gottschalk
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Bill O'Connor & Krista Roys
Mike Lee
Mike & Pepé Foundation
Kathleen A McCormick & James B Powell
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Bill O'Connor & Krista Roys
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Don & Joanne Tierney
Vern & Vicki Treinen
Mary Trewartha
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Bill & Lorette Wambach
Frank & Mariana Weinhold
Bill & Win Welsh
Jim Welsh
Sharon & Jed White
Fred Wolf
Rolf & Susan Wulfsberg

$500 - $999
Anonymous
Connie Anderson
Vera & Jane Bauman
Bruce Bauman & Emily Bair
James Berbee & Karen Walsh
Kathie & Tom Brock
Frank & Bonnie Burgess
Bob Gurd & Betty Craig
Julie Hayward & Don D'Alessio
David Koltes
James Koltes
Beth Kubly
Roma Lenahan
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Bill Lunney & Judie Pfeifer
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Pat Sammartaro
Defenders Of Wildlife
William Wartmann
Gary Werner & Melanie Lord
Panu Zoller
Tellee Zoller

$250 - $499
Anonymous
Jean Bahr
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Janet Battista
Chuck Bauer
Jack & Marian Bolz
Steven Brezinski
Willis Brown & Photina Ree
Martha Christensen
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Harry Miles & Susan Earley
Jim & Kris Frater
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Scott Sauer
Christie & Robert Selk
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Kevin Shelley & Sandra Whitney
Brent Sieling & Megan Schissman
Nicole & Paul Staskowski
Jeffrey Strobel
Lee & Jacqui Swanson
Dennis Tande & Mary Manering
Peter Thomford
Don & Joanna Thompson
Anne Traynor
Mark B. Williams
Daniel Wisniewski
Josie & Geoff Young

$100 - $249
Anonymous
Johanna & Mike Allex
Fernando & Carla Alvarado
Norman & Peggy Anderson
Patricia Arndorfer
Jim Arts & Helene Nelson
Ed Baker
Jim & Jennell Ballering
Mike & June Bauman Denruiter
Marvin & Elloise Beauty
Sandy Bennett
Andrew Bent & Anna Huttenlocher
Jeff & Lynn Berg
Oliver Berge
Connie Bettin
Jo Ann & Lloyd Bitzer
Curt & Alexandra Bjurlin
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Anthony & Mardell Blaschka
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Jeff & Freya Bowen
Chet Bradley
Joan Braune & Ted Highsmith
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Joan & William Brock
Stefanie Brouwer
Anna Campbell
Marsha & Peter Cannon
Stephen & Susan Carpenter
Bea & Lau Christensen
Arleen & Judy Christensen
Ronald Cook
Andrew & Elsa Crummy
Tim Culver
Mitt & Sandie Custer
Jack & Mary Davison
Charles De Frang
Robert & Ann De Mars
Robert & Jean Dent
Diane Derouen & Glenn Chambliss
Cal & Ruth DeWitt
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Linn A. Duesterbeck
Bill & Amy Dunlop
Dave Engleman
Michael Felshausen & Geke de Vries
Dennis & Mary Manering
Wesley & Ankie Foell
Clayton Ganser
Sharon & Warren Gaskill
Dianne Greenley
Karen & Andy Grimmer
Thomas Gross & Linda Hein
Susan Gruber
Timothy Hacker & Carol Chen
Ted Haglund
Don Hammes
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Lee & Yolanda Hayden
Alan Hazzelbaker
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Rosemary & Lee Jones
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Michael Klein
Elizabeth & David Koehler
Robert Koehler
Gordy Kopke
Anita Krasno & Daniel Hobson
Kurt Krumholz
Jim Kurtz
Mark & Anita Langer
Leon Le Van
Ken & Beth LePine
Philo Lewis
Herbert Ley
Sharon Lezberg & Brian Yandell
Wes & Jane Licht
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Katherine & Charles Mattison
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Nancy & Howard Mead
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John & Cindy Mehl
David Mickelson
Elizabeth Middleton
Philip Miles
Gene Mitchell & Jarno Arnovich
Nancy Mladenoff
Nancy & Thomas Mohs
Gregory Motl & Laurel Brooks
Eric Myers
Buzz & Kit Nordeen
Tony & Darlene Nowak
Richard Oberle
Shannon Orel
Brian & Elizabeth Osterhaus

Foundations
Alliant Energy Foundation
American Forest Foundation
John J. Frautschi Family Foundation
Hooper Foundation
MGE Foundation
Madison Community Foundation
Vogel Foundation
Greg & Penny Vodak
Ross & Rosalie Volkert
Suzanne & Larry Wade
Lauris Wagner
Benita Walker & Joe Senulis
Robert & Susan Wallen
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Si & Theresa Widstrand
Ken & Barbara Wiesner
Amelia & Barry Williams
Brooke Williams & Brendan Gorman
Barbara Wolfe
Bob & Nan Woodburn
Nancy Worcester
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Larry & Patricia Ziemer
Carol Ziesemer
Rich & Andrea Zietko
Gary Zika

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Dave Bernier
Connie Bettin
Judy Borke
Kathie & Tom Brock
Josh Brown
Ted Cochrane
Shirley Droste
Natalie Erdman
Robert Farrell
Judy Fossen
Rosalind Gausman
Rob Gottschalk
Elizabeth Haber
Janet Beach Hanson
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Chris Hughes
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Mary Schoch
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Mark Smith
Kevin St. Angel
Nicole Staskowski
Peter Thromford
Mary Trewartha
William & Gail Van Haren

Bill Wambach
Si Widstrand
Kate Wipperman
Nancy Zucker

Memorials & Honorariums
In Honor of Norman C. Anderson
Eric, Ellen, Ian, Henry, & Eva Anderson
Ruth & Thomas Kent
In Honor of Vera & Wally Bauman
Bruce Bauman & Emily Bair
Jane Bauman
Mike & June Bauman Denruiter
In Memory of Walter Bauman
Jane Bauman & Vera Bauman
In Honor of Lou Bruch
Richard & Doris Dubielzig
In Memory of Emily Earley
John & Cate Harrington
In Memory of Randy Eroen
Chad & Lisa Pierick
In Honor of Rosalind Gausman
and all she has done for the
Town of Dunn
Brian & Elizabeth Osterhaus
In Memory of Harold Kruse
John & Cate Harrington
In Memory of Margaret Lalar
Ed & Sue Minihan
In Memory of Robert E. Lee
Kevin, Martin, Peter, Susan,
Christopher, & David M. Lee
In Memory of Crystal Lokken
& Elaine Smiley
Wes & Jane Licht
In Honor of Ed & Sue Minihan
Mark & Barb Jung
In Honor of Bobbi Rohrs & Kenny
Anonymous
In Honor of Sal & Fred
Elizabeth & Lawrence Schmitz
In Honor of Kevin Shelley
Deanne & Steve Rohde
In Honor of Jo Ann Six
Eldred & Virginia Swingen
In Honor of Charles Strobel
Anonymous
In Memory of Ralph
&Marge Van Haren
Stan Kanter
In Memory of Joyce Wartmann
William Wartmann

Legacy Circle
Legacy Circle Members choose to remember
Natural Heritage Land Trust in a will or though
other planned gifts.

Johanna Alex
Clemens & June Baime
Lawrence J. Hitch
Beth Kubly
Bill Lunney & Judie Pfeifer
Jim & Rum O’Brien
Evan & Jane Pizer
Gary & Scott Reich
Pat Sammataro
Mary Trewartha
Jim Welsh
Carla Wright

Bequests
Emily Earley

Please remember Natural
Heritage Land Trust, Inc.
in your will or estate plan.

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EMI Consulting
U.S. Bancorp Foundation
W.W. Grainger, Inc.

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Cress Funeral & Cremation Service
First Business Bank
Fontana Sports Specialties, Inc.
Chris & Mary Hughes
Midwest Clay Project
Quercus Land Stewardship Services
SCS BT Squared
Stafford Rosenbaum LLP
Stewards of the Dells
SVA Plumb Wealth Management
The QTI Group

In-Kind Contributions
Candinas Chocolatier
Edelweiss Graziers Co-op

Business & Organization Members
$1,000 - $1,999
PAN-O-GOLD Baking Co.
/WVillage Hearth Breads

$500 - $999
Goodland Tree Works, Inc.
Haen Real Estate

$250 - $499
Bremser Group, Inc. CPAs
Haskins Law LLC
Town of Windsor

$100 - $249
Black Earth Creek Watershed
Association
Fountain Prairie, Inc
Friends of Cherokee Marsh
The Geo Group, Inc.
Isthmus Surveying
National Mutual Benefit
Summers Christmas Tree Farm LLC
Weary Traveler, Inc.
West Side Garden Club

Less than $100
Black Earth Creek Conservation Organization
Community Pharmacy
O’Connell Pharmacy Ltd
Taylor Conservation LLC
Upper Sugar River Watershed Association
Waunona Garden Club

Grants for Land Protection

Farm and Ranch Lands
Protection Program
Knowles-Nelson
Stewardship Program
North American Wetlands Conservation Act
Working Lands Initiative
PACE Program

If you are a member and your name
was left off this list or misspelled, we
apologize. Please call us at 258-9797
and we will correct our records.
YOU HAVE HELPED PERMANENTLY PROTECT 8,181 ACRES OF CHERISHED LOCAL LAND SINCE 1983

What’s Inside
• Black Earth Creek trail easement
• 429 acres: roundup of protected land
• 2011-2012 member list
• Gift membership order form

Natural Heritage LAND TRUST
Conservation where you live
303 S Paterson St, Suite 6
Madison, WI 53703
www.nhlt.org
608 258-9797

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SAVE THE DATE: Celebrating 30 Years of Land Stewardship 1983-2013
Thursday, April 25, 2013, 5:30 – 9:30 pm
Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery on the UW-Madison Campus

30 years
Take root. Grow deep. Look to the future.