Year in Protection 2013-2014

Permanently Protecting
John Muir’s legacy in Wisconsin

Natural Heritage LAND TRUST
Conservation where you live
I hope you share my enthusiasm for Natural Heritage Land Trust’s great success this year in permanently protecting some of the John Muir family farm between Portage and Montello. When the Wisconsin Friends of John Muir learned that the property might be available, they came to us because of our reputation for getting the job done. Working with a conservation-minded family and a community of partners, we completed the 198-acre acquisition in early September, less than a year since we were introduced to the landowner family.

In this past year, we also permanently protected four other great places in and around Dane County. When we say “permanently protected”, we mean it. We annually visit each of our 65 conservation easements to maintain strong relationships with the landowners and work with them to ensure that the forests, streams, wetlands, and farmlands on their property remain protected. Likewise, every piece of land that we buy to add to nature preserves, wildlife areas, and trail corridors is permanently restricted to conservation uses, ensuring that the public’s investment in these conservation lands is never forgotten or ignored.

Your financial contributions make it possible for our small but dedicated staff to protect great places in south central Wisconsin. Your support buys the staff expertise and talent that we need to get the job done. We look forward to what we will achieve with your support in the coming year at places like the Yahara River, Westport Drumlin, and the Wisconsin River. Thank you very much for your generous support.

Willi Van Haren, President

Bessie McGwin Eggleston: Preserving John Muir’s legacy in Wisconsin

Bessie McGwin Eggleston died at the age of 101 in March of 2014. One of her wishes was to ensure that the farm she loved so deeply along Highway F south of Montello, would remain an untrammeled part of the natural world. Though she didn’t live to see it, her family made that wish come true when they sold Bessie’s farm to Natural Heritage Land Trust in September.

In life, Bessie was a strong, independent woman and a lover of the natural world. In a poignant essay, Bessie evoked John Muir’s own feelings when she recounted her horror at the destruction along Highway F as it was being “improved” as part of the Hiawatha Trail highway project in the 1970’s:

“…Tears blurred my eyes so I couldn’t count the rings of the old elm stump as I sat upon it and surveyed the ‘Progress’ made along our winding, blacktop country road. The mammoth red and white oaks, the towering cottonwoods and the giant among giants, my dear old elm, all in a heap of rubble. Their mossy bark and the cambium hearts through which their life blood flowed, stopped forever. No disease or act of God could have been more devastating than the power of ‘Progress’ placed in the hands of a commissioner.”

That her farm was part of the history of John Muir’s life in Wisconsin was well known to Bessie. 38 acres of her 198 acre farm was once part of the 320 acre farm where Muir grew up. Bessie told the story of her father, Sam McGwin, as a sixteen-year-old working in the field when Muir stopped by, having walked about 12 miles from Portage. Muir was trying for the third time to purchase part of the property around Fountain Lake (now Ennis Lake, named for Bessie’s grandfather John Ennis) where he had spent his boyhood.

Some 118 years later, an important part of John Muir’s original boyhood home is now permanently protected as a complement to the John Muir Memorial County Park and State Natural Area. Thanks to people like Bessie McGwin Eggleston, our natural heritage is being preserved so future generations can cherish the places that make Wisconsin special.

Natural Heritage Land Trust will donate 120 acres of Bessie’s 198-acre farm to the US Fish and Wildlife Service to be managed as part of the adjacent Fox River National Wildlife Refuge. A memorial plaque will be installed on the foundation of the family’s barn commemorating the McGwin-Eggleston history on the property. The remaining 78 acres will be donated to the Ice Age Trail Alliance and the Ice Age Trail will likely be extended north from the existing trail around Ennis Lake.

Natural Heritage Land Trust worked with Bessie’s niece and nephews, John, Kathleen, Ken, and Tim McGwin, to complete the sale of her beloved farm. They have our special thanks for making this historic project a success.


Save the Date! Celebrate preservation at the Eggleston farm on Saturday, June 13, 2015 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm.

ON THE COVER: John Muir, Bessie Eggleston, and the Eggleston farm.
Conservation Roundup

It was another successful year for land conservation in south-central Wisconsin. With the support of members like you, Natural Heritage Land Trust permanently protected nearly 400 acres of cherished local land at four special places where we live and play.

Black Earth Creek In December 2013, Steve Schmitt, owner of The Shoe Box and the Madison Mallards, gave us the last one and a half acres needed to complete a multi-use trail connecting the Village of Mazomanie to the Wisconsin Heights Middle and High School. The scenic trail, which will be completed by the end of 2014, winds along a recently restored stretch of Black Earth Creek providing easy public access to world-class fishing and a safe and healthy way for the youth of Mazomanie to get to school.

Historic Indian Agency House We preserved a significant piece of Wisconsin history in Portage by placing a permanent conservation easement on the 160 acre landscape surrounding the Historic Indian Agency House owned by The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Wisconsin. The Agency House and surrounding land is adjacent to the historic portage between the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers and helps tell the story of Wisconsin’s frontier past. At the same time Natural Heritage Land Trust purchased the conservation easement, the Ice Age Trail Alliance purchased 46 acres from the Colonial Dames to secure a portion of the Ice Age Trail along the Portage Canal.

Wisconsin River The wooded bluffs along the Wisconsin River are enjoyed by thousands of boaters every year. Thanks to the generosity of Tim & Terri Escher and Tim’s father, Bill Escher, a prominent bluff on Okee Bay is permanently protected with a conservation easement. The easement ensures that the 47-acre scenic bluff remains undeveloped and continues to contribute to the dramatic beauty of the river. This project is the ninth that we have completed on the Wisconsin River.

Westport Drumlin Prairie and Savanna Restoration Our ecological restoration crew continued to work their magic at Westport Drumlin, a State Natural Area east of Waunakee. The focus again this year was clearing the brush that has been invading the edges of the drumlin and keeping the weeds like sweet clover and leafy spurge at bay. It was the third year of our participation in the “Prairie Partners”. The Prairie Partners is a joint program of Friends of Lakeshore Nature Preserve, Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy, Madison Audubon Society, and Natural Heritage Land Trust. It is a cost-effective way to get a lot of land management done each summer and provides valuable on-the-job training to students considering careers in conservation.
Mission
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, Wisconsin region.

By the Numbers
July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014
Your individual gift makes a big difference!

633 Members (up from 564 last year)
$196,651 in Contributions
Renewing members = 79%
4 Places Permanently Protected
399 Acres Permanently Protected
$702,600 Value of Land Permanently Protected

Between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014, Natural Heritage Land Trust received $279,612 for operations and spent $323,949 for operations. The difference of $44,274 came from reserve funds that support the operations of Natural Heritage Land Trust.

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<tr>
<th>Income for operations</th>
<th>$196,651</th>
<th>70%</th>
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<tr>
<td>Consulting fees</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Endowment Distributions</td>
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<td>Other income</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$279,612</strong></td>
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<table>
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<th>Expenses for operations</th>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Staff</td>
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<td>Land Management</td>
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<td>Professional services (accounting, etc.)</td>
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<td>General and Administrative</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$323,949</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>


July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

2013 Black Hawk Ridge Trail Run
Doug & Sherry Caves
Dan & Natalie Erdman
Lawrence J. Hitch
Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust
Jim & Rumi O’Brien
William & Gill Van Haren

$2,000 - $4,999
Sheren Clark
Stan Kanter
Darcy Kind & Marc Vitale
Roma Lenehan
George Lucey
Bill O’Connor & Krista Roys
Glenn Reinl & Sara Krebsbach
Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited
Frank & Mariana Weinhold
Jim Welsh

$1,000 - $20,000
Richard Mazess

5,000 - $9,999
2014 Westport Drumlin
Prairie Partner Sponsors
Mary Binkley & Dennis Petzke
Lou & Nancy Bruch
Douglas & Sherry Caves
Susan & Conrad Jostad
Sarah & Mark McGuire
Jim & Rumi O’Brien
Cary & Scott Reich
Don & Joanne Tierney

$500 - $999
Anonymous (2)
Jean Bahr
Barbara Bangert
Ed & Lois Brick
Frank & Bonnie Burgess
Martha Christensen
Vicki Elkin & Mike Ivey
Ron & Sheila Endres
Marie Fraser
Bob Gurdia & Betty Craig
Don Hammes
Julie Hayward & Donn D’Alessio
Jack & Nancy Heiden
David Koltes
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Pat & Phil Leavenworth
Herbert Ley
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Peter Thomford
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Tracy Wiklund & Jack Sorenson

$250 - $499
Anonymous (4)
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Andrew & Andrea Arnett
Eleanor & John Asmuth
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Bill & Amy Dunlop
Herman Felstehausen & Geke de Vries
Jim & Kris Frater
Clayton Ganser
Dr. Robert & Linda Graebner
Karen & Andy Grimmer

Thank you to our members, donors and partners! Your support makes all the difference.
Terry Haller
Gil & Karen Herman
John & Judith Hutchinson
Lesley Johnson & Terry Marshall
David & Sonja Keesey-Berg
Reene Lauber & Graham Cody
Mary Maher & Eileen Maher
David McCabe & Andrea Gonstead
Terrence McCormick
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Wayne & Jackie Pauly
Mary Paultz
Evon & Jane Pizer
Shawn & Becky Pourchat
Irwin & Joyce Probstein
Ron Rosner & Ronnie Hess
Scott Sauer
Jennifer & David Sereno
Mark Smith & Dan Rigney
Dennis Tande & Mary Manering
Don & Joanna Thompson
Michael Vahidehieck & Julie Horner
Maura Whitmore
Tripp & Nancy Widder
Mark B. Williams
Mike & Barbara Wollmer
Rolf & Susan Wulfberg

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Terese Allen & Jim Block
Fernando & Carla Alvarado
Connie Anderson
Eric Anderson & family
Norman & Peggy Anderson
Patricia Armddorfer
Barbara & Stephen Arnold
Jim Arts & Helene Nelson
Valerie Bailey-Rihn & David Rihn
Mike & Renee Bashel
Joy Bauman
Mike & June Bauman Denenuer
Jim & Nancy Baxter
Marvin Beatty
Melissa Behr
Andrew Bent & Anna Huttonlocher
Jeff & Lynn Berg
Oliver Berge
Mark & Julie Berggren
Dale Beske & Dorothy Gertsch
Connie Bettin
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Philip & Katherine Blake
Joan & Darren Blankenheim
Anthony & Mardell Blaschka
Matt Blessing & Susan Maloney
Charles & Dianne Boardman III
Helen Boley
Tom & Shaila Bolger
Jack & Marian Bolz
Ed & Judy Borke
Barbara Borns
Scott Brandt
Steven Brezinski
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Robert Koehler
Paul & Anne Koeppen
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Jim Kurzt
Judith Kuse
Jack Ladinsky
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Leon LeVan
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Phil Lewis
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Dave Lucey

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Caleb Pourchot & Heidi Habeger
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Barbara Weitz
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Bill White
Jeff & Nan Wild
Kate & Matt Wipperman
Daniel Wnieswski
Arleen Wolek
Harry Woll
Levi Wood
Bob & Nan Woodburn
Lynda & Dick Wright
Carla Wright
Patricia Zastrow
Paul & Joy Zedler
Larry & Patricia Ziemer
Jan Zimmermann
Matt Zine
Nancy Zucker & Michael Burns

Up to $99
Anonymous (10)
Cathy Acker
William & Myra Ahern
Ron & Vaira Akelsis
Johanna & Mike Allex
Barbara Anderson
Dan Anderson
Norman & Lucie Arendt
Gretchen Arndt
Mary Bakken
Roger & Jane Bannerman
Delma Bashemher
Sue & Ellis Bauman
Thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers who help in so many ways.

Super Volunteers

Thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers who help in so many ways.

Tony Abate
Johanna Alex
Melissa Apland
Patricia Arndorfer
Jan Axelson & Jim Hughes
Sharon & Glenn Baldwin
Jeanne Behrend
Mary Binkley
Scott Brandt
Nancy Bruch
Butler’s Lawn Care

Sherren Clark
Bill Coady
Ted Cochrane
Denis Connor
Heather Curnutt
Kathy Dalbey
Gretchen Dieterich
Emily Duff
Briania Duran
Brant Erickson
John Feith
Sharon & Warren Gaskill
Mark Gnabasik

Rob Gottschalk
Janet Beach Hanson
Kai, Ali & Cindy Hansen
Tiffany Hau
Karl Heil
Kent Hinz
Chris Hughes
Marilyn Ketterer
Brian Keuler
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Mike & Linda Leggett
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Kevin St. Angel
Nicole Staskowski
Jeffrey Strobel
Paul Van Ginkel

Gail Van Haren
Jimmy & Judy Vandenbroek
Wendy Vredenburgh
Bill Wambach
Si Wistland
Mary Winkler
Red Wright
Memorials and Honorariums
In honor of Norman C. Anderson
Eric, Ellen, Ian, Henry & Eva Anderson
Ruth & Thomas Kent
In honor of Jan Axelson & Jim Hughes
Janet Battista
In memory of Edwin F. Blau, farmer & lover of the land
Claudia Blau
In memory of Jane C. Bauman
Joy Bauman
Lynda M Sharpe
Brian D. Wacker
Cheryl A. Horne
In memory of Jane Bauman & Walter Bauman
Mike & June Bauman Denruiter
In honor of Vera & Wally Bauman
Bruce Bauman & Emily Bair
In honor of the Chase Family
Joe & Kathy Chase
In memory of Jack Dunsmore
M.E. Dunsmore
In honor of Lloyd L. Eagan’s 38-year career in environmental protection
Friends & Colleagues of Lloyd Eagan
In memory of Daniel Eater
Sandra Eater
In honor of Rich Henderson, the hardest worker I have know
Kathy Henderson
In honor of Judith Hutchinson, a dear friend, who has done tireless work for conservation
Janice Von Haden
In memory of Ruth Johnson
Martin Johnson
In memory of Jim Knickmeyer
Jean Knickmeyer
In memory of Hazel Knudson
Nancy & Gordie Miller
In memory of Hattie & Paul LaLonde
Bill & Lorette Wambach
In honor of my mom, Noreen Lucey
JoAnn Foote
In memory of Martha Martin
Anna Goebel
In memory of our neighbor
Hal Mathison
William & Roberta Sonzogni
In memory of Kevin McCabe
Marie S. McCabe
In memory of Hartman Olson & Telfor Forsheim Olson
Tura Graber
In honor of my son Caleb Pourchot
Cathy Acker
In honor of John & Dorothy Priske
Jonny Dexter

In memory of Harriet Riley
Anna Garner-Strickon
In memory of Gerry Slavney
Mike & Linda Slavney
In memory of Judy Standish-Ely
Jim Ely
In memory of Richard W. Summers
Louise Summers
In memory of Andrew Wallen
Robert & Susan Wallen
In honor of Jim Welsh
Herbert Ley
In memory of Win Welsh
Frank & Mariana Weinhold
In memory of Hazel Wilke
Nancy Gundlach
In memory of Kenneth Wood
Tony & Darlene Nowak
In memory of Ken Wood & Noel Cutright
John & Catie Harrington
Gift Membership Recipients
Mary Ann Brimeyer
Whitt Case
Glenn Glesinger
Tim Hacker & Carol Chen
Elizabeth Hutchinson
Rick Lonigro
Madison Eats
Cliff & Suzanne Perkins
Scott Sankey
Marylyn & Stewart Stroup
Gifts to Natural Heritage Land Trust Endowments at Madison Community Foundation
Tim & Terri Escher
Festge Double Forte, LLC
Phoebe R. & John D. Lewis Foundation
George Lucey
John & Nancy Meyers
The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Wisconsin
Fred Wolf
Gifts & Partial Gifts of Land & Easements
Tim and Terri Escher
The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Wisconsin
Steve Schmitt
Grants for Land Protection
Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program
In preparing this report, we tried to be accurate and complete. If there is an omission or error, please accept our apologies and call Martha Frey at 608-258-9797 or Martha@nhlt.org and we will correct our records.
Places worth knowing  Join Natural Heritage Land Trust on one of our field trips and get to know the places you’ve helped protect. Our outings are led by landowners or expert naturalists; offering you unique opportunities to enjoy and learn about our glorious landscape while meeting others who share your commitment to conservation where you live.

Cherokee Marsh Snowshoe  Saturday, February 7, 2015  9:00 – 11:00 am  This wetland gem will be a winter wonderland and the perfect place for a family outing. Braving the snow and cold is worth it with Mary Binkley, Natural Heritage Land Trust member and naturalist, there to guide and inspire us with a story around every corner.

Trewartha Bobolink Hill Farm Bird Walk  Saturday, May 23, 2015  10:00 – noon  Don’t miss this opportunity to see the bobolinks and redheaded woodpeckers that thrive in Mary Trewartha’s grassland and savanna. Located north of Dodgeville in Iowa County, Mary’s impressive prairie and savanna restoration is permanently protected with a conservation easement.

Sugar River Paddle  Saturday, May 30, 2015  Once again we take to the river with Willi Van Haren, experienced paddler and Natural Heritage Land Trust President. This is a 2-hour paddle through permanently protected sections of the Sugar River. The river can be challenging, but we’ve seen it done on paddle boards! Everyone is responsible for bringing their own equipment.

All field trips are free of charge but pre-registration is required. Reserve your spot today! Email Heidi at Heidi@nhlt.org or call 258-9797.