During this past year, the Foundation’s mission, to preserve and protect important lands in Dane County, has involved it in a variety of land-saving initiatives.

Most notably, of course, was the Foundation’s effort to purchase the Yahara Center’s land last spring. The Foundation assembled a major financial package through key members of the business community and came within a hair’s breadth of purchasing and preserving this land which abuts the Cherokee Marsh. Unfortunately, the Yahara Center declined the offer and elected instead to sell the land for development.

The majority of the Foundation’s activities has been of a much quieter nature. Our contacts with landowners to discuss preservation are carried out very confidentially. The DCNHF Stewardship Committee has been active in consulting and evaluating numerous sites.

As a land trust, the Foundation is in a unique position to work cooperatively with local government to accomplish mutual goals. Currently the Foundation is helping to secure a parcel of land which is in the Cherokee Marsh Plan and of particular interest to the City of Madison. Our goal is to act quickly and negotiate with a landowner who may not be able to wait until the city has the authorization to carry forward with negotiations.

The date is also approaching to implement programs under the State Stewardship Fund. As a non-profit conservation organization, the Foundation will be eligible to receive matching funds for projects which meet the goals of the Stewardship Program. The DNR is responsible for administering the Stewardship Program and will determine which projects are funded. The Foundation has its sights on January when approval should be granted for the Foundation’s stewardship project and we can begin to promote our program and begin raising the needed funds. More information will be coming soon on this project.

The Foundation anticipates significant advances in environmental protection in Dane County in the coming year. The County Conservation Fund and State Stewardship Fund present an encouraging and timely response to the challenges facing Wisconsin and Dane County. More than ever, the support of our membership, both in time and in money, will play an important role in the success of the Foundation’s efforts.

Thank you to Business Members

The Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following area businesses for their support of the DCNHF through business memberships:

CUNA Mutual Insurance Group Charitable Foundation
DEC International - Albrecht Foundation
First Wisconsin National Bank of Madison
Fontana Sports Specialties, Inc.
Goodman’s Jewelers
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