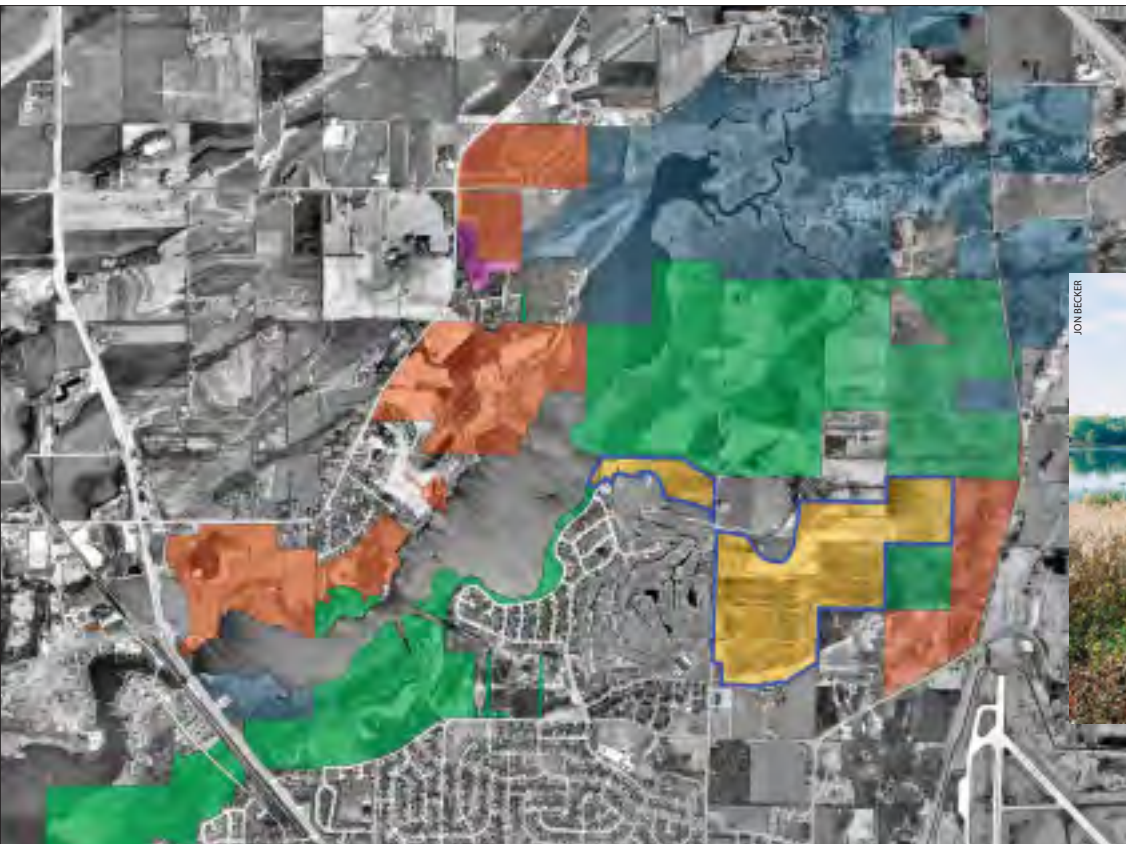


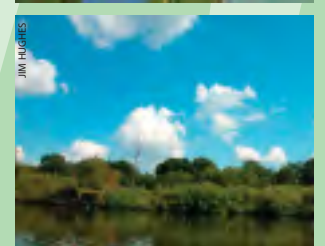
landscene

A publication of the Natural Heritage Land Trust Spring 2007



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City, county, and state conservation holdings at Cherokee Marsh. The proposed addition is outlined in blue.



Land Trust to help City protect Cherokee Marsh

The Natural Heritage Land Trust is teaming with the City of Madison to protect approximately 280 acres of land at Cherokee Marsh on the north side of Madison. Cherokee Marsh is the largest wetland in Dane County—a 4,000-acre landscape of wetlands and uplands at the junction of the Yahara River and Token Creek. Dane County, the DNR, and the City of Madison have protected large pieces of this landscape over the years. If this latest acquisition is successful, it would be the Land Trust's third project in the marsh. In 1991 we purchased 21 acres in the wetland south of Hwy. 113, and in 1993 Naomi Whiteside donated a conservation easement protecting 17 acres of upland on the west side of the marsh.

The City recently completed negotiations with a landowner that create the opportunity to protect important areas of the marsh that

have been slated for development since the 1960s. The proposed acquisition would create a buffer of undeveloped land on the south side of the City's Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park at the end of Sherman Avenue. It would also permanently protect an expanse of wetland east of Sherman Avenue, including 80 acres that are within the boundary of a state natural area established in 1976 to protect fen, sedge meadow, and shrubby wetland habitat.

The Land Trust will partner with the City to seek state and county funding to cover as much as 75% of the purchase price. According to Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz, "This is the most significant land acquisition in Madison's recent history. The support of the Natural Heritage Land Trust will help us secure the funding necessary to make this historic acquisition a reality."



Governor announces plan to reauthorize Stewardship Fund



Land in the Black Earth Creek valley has been protected with the financial support of the Stewardship Program and the Dane County Conservation Fund.

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Governor Jim Doyle recently announced plans to seek reauthorization of the state's landmark Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. Established in 1989 in honor of former Governors Warren Knowles and Gaylord Nelson, the Stewardship Program has helped protect more than 475,000 acres of high-quality recreation and environmentally-sensitive land in Wisconsin.

Over the last 15 years, the Stewardship Program has made grants of nearly \$4.4 million to help the Natural Heritage Land Trust complete 13 projects. We have matched the Stewardship grants with more than \$7.2 million in local, private, and federal funding to secure important recreation and conservation places like Hickory Hill Conservancy Park in the Village of Cross Plains, hunting and fishing land along Garfoot Creek in the Black Earth Creek valley, and Pederson Springs at Token Creek.

Unfortunately, the Stewardship Program is not permanent and will end in 2010 unless the state legislature votes to continue it. For legislative updates on this important program, please visit www.gatheringwaters.org/stewardship.

Mark Your Calendars

Native Plant Sale Friends of the Arboretum

Saturday, May 12, 2007 from 9 AM to 2 PM
UW-Madison Arboretum Visitor Center,
1207 Seminole Highway, Madison
www.uwarboretum.org

Caring for the Land Conference

Saturday, June 23, 2007
Holy Wisdom Monastery
(formerly known as Saint Benedict Center)
4200 County Highway M, Middleton
nsmith@benedictinewomen.org

Thank you!

To Aaron Stephenson for creating maps of the Black Earth Creek valley.
To Black Earth State Bank for use of a meeting room for Land Trust open houses.



Landowners improve wildlife habitat under conservation easements



Restored trout habitat along German Valley Creek on the Hayward-D'Alessio Conservation Easement.

Delayed cutting of hay makes this field great bobolink nesting habitat on the Trewartha Conservation Easement.

Conservation easements are a great way to protect natural resources while keeping them in private ownership. The Natural Heritage Land Trust has used these voluntary land protection agreements 36 times to conserve productive farmland, wildlife habitat, and streams. Managing the land under easements generally remains the responsibility of the landowner; here are three stories.

On a 169-acre farm protected by a conservation easement in Iowa County north of Dodgeville, landowner Mary Trewartha has focused much of her restoration effort on habitat for grassland birds. The numbers of meadowlarks, bobolinks, and field sparrows have declined statewide and nationwide; one culprit is hay fields cut before the young birds are ready to leave their nests. Mary's tenant farmer delays the first cutting of hay until after July 4th, allowing dozens of bobolinks and other grassland birds to fledge their young each year. In addition, Mary has spent more than ten years restoring a ten-acre prairie, home to several plants on the state's list of threatened species.

Improving stream habitat along a nearly half-mile stretch of German Valley Creek has been one of the goals for Julie Hayward and Donn D'Alessio's 77-acre property in western Dane County. The work was done by Trout Unlimited and Dane County's Department of

Land and Water Resources as part of a project to restore four miles of the creek. Erosion had caused the creek bed to widen and fill in, ruining the habitat for trout that prefer cool, deep water. The restoration work involved removing brushy vegetation along the creek, narrowing the streambank, and building 40 structures in the creek banks to provide "hiding" habitat for fish. Dane County Conservationist Pat Sutter said, "We're very happy with the results of this project; because of the streambank stabilization work, the trout are returning and the public now has access to fish in the improved area."

West of the Village of Oregon, Kent and Becky Wells are using the income from a timber sale to help them restore oak savanna on their 49-acre property. The Wellses have removed non-native shrubs under the oaks, reclaiming space for shooting stars, bottle brush, and other native plants that had been choked out by invasive shrubs. "I'm glad I didn't know at the beginning how much work it would take, but now I am better at it and I enjoy it," said Kent. Kent brings his elementary school classes to the property twice a year to collect and distribute native seeds, discover frogs and other aquatic life in the creek, and learn how uses of the property have changed in the last 150 years.

Avoid Deferred Income Taxes while Supporting Land Conservation

Last year Congress passed legislation creating a tax incentive for charitable donations from IRA funds. Individuals aged 70½ and older can avoid paying deferred income taxes on contributions of up to \$100,000 each year from their IRAs. This incentive will expire on December 31, 2007. To take advantage of this tax incentive and help the Natural Heritage Land Trust, call your IRA custodian.

President's Circle

Conservation of cherished places does not happen by accident. The Land Trust appreciates the foresight of the individuals, businesses, and foundations that have made substantial financial commitments to conservation through our President's Circle (as of March, 1, 2007).

\$10,000+ Eugenie Mayer Bolz Family Foundation, Walter A. and Jean Meanwell **\$2,500+** Sherren Clark, William Fairbanks, Walt & Stacey Meanwell, Glenn Reinl & Sara Krebsbach, *The Capital Times* **\$1,000+** BT² Engineering & Science, Tom Bergamini & Herika Kummel, Robert and Ann Bolz, Michael & Shelley Dubis, Lloyd & Pat Eagan, Rob Gottschalk & Joy Stieglitz Gottschalk, Larry Hitch, Hooper Foundation/Hooper Construction & General Heating and Air Conditioning, John J. Frautschi Family Foundation, Lathrop & Clark LLP, Phoebe & John Lewis Foundation, Martha Lound, Bill Lunney & Judie Pfeifer, Tom McGregor & Anita Gallucci, MGE Foundation, Michael, Best & Friedrich LLP, Natural Resources Consulting, Inc., Bill O'Connor & Krista Roys, Kathy F. & Bill Pielsticker, Placon Corporation, David & Katie Simon, Michael & Linda Slavney, Soleil Development Corporation, Jeff Strobel, Vandewalle & Associates, Inc., Veridian Homes Foundation, Webcrafters-Frautschi Foundation, Wheeler, Van Sickle & Anderson, S.C., Wal-Mart Foundation, Frank & Mariana Weinhold, and Bill & Win Welsh

To join the President's Circle and make a significant gift to help preserve critical natural resources in the Black Earth Creek valley, Patrick Marsh, the Town of Dunn, and other places close to home, please call Jim Welsh or Martha Frey at 608-258-9797.

A Long Lasting Gift

The Natural Heritage Land Trust recently received a very generous \$55,000 gift from the Eugenie Mayer Bolz Family Foundation in support of several aspects of the Land Trust's work, including monitoring our 36 conservation easements. \$30,000 of the funds reside at the Madison Community Foundation in an endowment set up by the Bolz Family Foundation in 2000. Gifts to the endowment produce annual income that helps ensure our long-term success.

MARIO QUINTANA



50 people turned out on September 30th to clean up the woods recently purchased by the Land Trust at Patrick Marsh.



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