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Persistence pays off in Oregon

Overlooking the Village of Oregon in 93 acres of rolling fields and forest, Landowners Pete and Patricia Hermsen bought the property in 1984 and have thoroughly enjoyed this special place since then. But it wasn’t until 2008 when Pete and Patricia just gave the property away that they wanted to ensure that future generations in the community would be able to enjoy it as well. A public conservation easement would be the ideal way to do that. “We thought that by giving the land to the other land owners they could use it as well as we can for entertainment, and relaxation, and education,” said Pete Hermsen. To start the process, they reached out to Groundswell Conservancy to help them achieve their goal. Sometimes, conservation easements happen quickly. This easement took almost four years of persistence. Pete and Patricia kept focused on their vision until finally, on December 11th, the conservation easement took place.

The Hermsens intend to donate the property to the Village for a park when they no longer live there. The conservation easement ensures the property will remain natural and undeveloped for the benefit of the entire community. We hope to donate the property to the state as an addition to the state’s natural area.

Thank you to our sponsors and the City of Oregon for a park that will benefit the people of Oregon for years to come.
Landowners protect beloved farms

Thank you to the leadership of two families, in December the Town of Dunn and Groundswell added two more farms to the7263

Dane County Rural Preservation Program. One of these newly protected farms is owned by Roz and Bill Dunn and Groundswell added two more farms to the Town of Dunn. Their pasture-based dairy operation was established in 1935 and their milk has been used to make cheeses known in southern Wisconsin.

Over the last 25 years, our partnership with the Town has resulted in the protection of 30 farms totaling more than 5,200 acres of prime farmland, woodland, and wetlands.

Our thanks to the landowners who have permanently protected their farms for future generations: the USDA National Resources Conservation Service provided important funding to purchase the agricultural conservation easements protecting the farms. And thanks to the5364

Christine Bueke, \( \text{CARD} \) Al. A. Leavens, Madison

Thank you to our sponsors: Westport Drumlin.
neighbors at Patrick Marsh and around bonfires with friends and enjoyed the Wisconsin winter. Groundswell enthusiasts

The 533 acres of prime farmland, woodland, and wetlands.

For more information on how you can be a rural preservation hero, please visit groundswellwisconsin.org.

Our thanks to the landowners who have permanently protected their farms for future generations: the USDA National Resources Conservation Service provided important funding to purchase the agricultural conservation easements protecting the farms. And thanks to the leadership of two families, in December the Town of Dunn and Groundswell added two more farms to the Town of Dunn.

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For more information on how you can be a rural preservation hero, please visit groundswellwisconsin.org.

Persistence pays off in Oregon

Last November, with help from the Ferry Bluff Eagle Council—the nonprofit group that performs eagle research, develops educational programs, and hosts eagle-watching groups—Groundswell purchased a 51-acre parcel of land adjacent to Ferry Bluff. The conservation-minded landowner wanted the land to remain natural and undeveloped for the benefit of the entire community. We, too, want to see the property as a gift to the landowner who contributed half of the funds to purchase the property. The other half of the funds came from the State of Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

We are thankful to the landowner, Tom Hanley, for selling the property to us at a discount. And many thanks to these funders for their financial support: Dunn County Conservation Fund, City of Sparta, State of Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, Town of Bristol, Patrick Marsh Conservancy, Token Creek Watershed Association, Bill & Ally Klotzbach, Florence Schmitt, Samuel and Lynne Dennis, Jr., and supporters of Groundswell. We are especially grateful for our partnership with Patrick Marsh over the years. This acquisition is a big win for Patrick Marsh. Thanks for your part in making it happen.
Persistence pays off in Oregon

Overlooking the Village of Oregon lie 59 acres of rolling fields and forest. Landowners Pat and Patricia Hermsen bought the property in 1984 and have thoroughly enjoyed this special place since then. But it wasn’t until 2016 that Pat and Patricia got the property they wanted to ensure that future generations in the community would be able to use it in this area too, and a public conservation plan would be a ideal way to do that. “We thought if by donating the land other people could use it as well as we can for entertainment, and relaxation, and education,” said Pat Hermsen. To start the process, they reached out to Groundswell Conservancy to help them achieve their goal. Sometimes, conservation easements happen quickly. This easement took almost four years of persistence. Pat and Patricia kept focused on their vision until finally, on December 11th, the Hermsen’s property was permanently protected.

The Hermsens intend to donate the property to the Village for a park when they no longer live there. The conservation easement took almost four years of persistence. Pat and Patricia kept focused on their vision until finally, on December 11th, their property was permanently protected. Pat and Patricia kept focused on their vision until finally, on December 11th, their property was permanently protected.

One of the newly protected farms is owned by Ron and Bill Gruen, long-time farmers in the Town. Their pasture-based dairy operation was ahead of its time and their milk has been used by chefs and foodies across the nation. Their farms are not only a source of milk but also a source of education. They are passionate about teaching others about the importance of biodiversity and sustainability. The Gruens have been working with Groundswell Conservancy for over a decade to protect their farms for future generations.

Persistence pays off in Oregon.

Eagle conservation soars

Recent Connecticut—place and people connect people. One of these special places is Ferry Bluff State Natural Area, a critical winter congregating area for bald eagles within the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway. This area is home to the largest concentration of bald eagles in the state and Ferry Bluff is the only communal roost on the Lower Wisconsin River. This has gained significant long-term conservation protection. Last November, with help from the Ferry Bluff Eagle Council—the non-profit that performs eagle research, develops educational programs, and leads eagle-watching tours—Groundswell purchased a 35-acre parcel of land adjacent to Ferry Bluff. The conservation-minded landowner wanted the land to remain natural and undisturbed for the benefit of the entire community. We hope to donate the property to the state as an addition to the state natural area. Thank you to the landowner and friends and foundations listed on our website at groundswellwisconsin.org/eaglesbluff who contributed half of the funds to purchase the property. The other half of the funds came from the State of Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Landowners protect beloved farms

Thank you to the landowners of two farms, in December the Town of Dunas and Groundswell added two more farms to the Wisconsin Rural Conservation Program. One of these newly protected farms is owned by Ron and Bill Gruen, long-time farmers in the Town. Their pasture-based dairy operation was ahead of its time and their milk has been used by chefs and foodies across the nation. Their farms are not only a source of milk but also a source of education. They are passionate about teaching others about the importance of biodiversity and sustainability. The Gruens have been working with Groundswell Conservancy for over a decade to protect their farms for future generations.

Rivers connect places—and places connect people.

In our 2017-2018 Annual Report, the following supporters should have been listed under $500-$999.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provided important funding to purchase the agricultural conservation easements protecting the farms. And thanks to the efforts of the Town of Dunas who have made their Rural Conservation Program an amazing success and funded those easements with their own tax dollars.

We are sorry that we left some of you out!

In our 2017-2018 Annual Report, the following supporters should have been listed under $500-$999. We apologize for these oversights.

More to love at Patrick Marsh

Dina’s David loves Patrick Marsh. “It’s like a dream come true to live right next to such beautiful land. The land is so well maintained and it’s a peaceful land to walk all year around.” Dina’s David knew, she and her family were the perfect stewards for this land and explored great new places. The land is also the Marshes representative for Drinu Realty, an organization dedicated to getting families together in nature with pets to enjoy their youth. In fact, the good news is that in October we purchased 25 acres in the southeast side of Patrick Marsh. The land occupies a low rising hill on the wildlife viewing platform and main trail into the wildlife area.

The land in this southeast corner of Patrick Marsh was previously owned by the Town of Bristol, Patrick Marsh Conservancy, Token Creek Watershed Association, Bart and Shirley Brinkerhoff, Florence Schmitt, Samuel and Lynne Dennis, Jr., and supporters of Groundswell. We are especially grateful to the landowners who have permanently protected their farms for future generations. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provided important funding to purchase the agricultural conservation easements protecting the farms. And thanks to the efforts of the Town of Dunas who have made their Rural Conservation Program an amazing success and funded those easements with their own tax dollars.

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FIELD OF DREAMS

By Mike Ivey, excerpted from the February 7, 2019 Isthmus

There’s a blanket of snow covering the vacant fields south of Madison along County MM, but the heavy equipment for the purchase was provided by a combination of the Dane County Conservation Fund, Groundswell’s Executive Director. In December, Groundswell purchased the 36 acres from fourth generation landowner Will Van Haeze, as your guide. You’ll learn about the old woodlands in the Sugar River area. Everyone is responsible for bringing their own equipment.

Thank you for your support.

Natural Heritage Land Trust

NATURAL HERITAGE LAND TRUST

continued on flap

Contributions are tax-deductible as provided for by law.

Check (payable to Groundswell Conservancy

Credit Card

Phone ___________________________  Email __________________________________________

Address __________________________________________ City _______________________   State ________  Zip ________

Name(s) _______________________________________________________________________________________________

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Solutions

Neighborhood Food

 heuristic@groundswellwisconsin.org or (608) 258-9797.

Learn about your options for adding Groundswell Conservancy to your estate plans, including conservation a priority!

Donate or send in the form below. We all win when we make

Sustaining members (monthly givers) are automatically

Donate for your chance to win

April 15 and

or Heidi@groundswellwisconsin.org

or at groundswellwisconsin.org/events.

Sugar River Paddle

Saturday, April 27

1 pm – 5 pm

Explore the Sugar River with Groundswell Conservancy Board President, Will Van Haeze, as your guide. You’ll learn about the old woodlands in the Sugar River area. Everyone is responsible for bringing their own equipment.

Thank you for your support.

Annual Bird Walk

Saturday, May 19

8:30 am – 10:30 am

Join us for a morning walk at the UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve with founder Marty Foxman. Meet our origin story of how citizens saved the Sugar River with Community GroundWorks to develop a system of conservation where you live. Our field trips are free of charge but pre-registration is required. Reserve your spot online today at groundswellwisconsin.org/events.

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National Trails Day Hickory Hill Hike

Saturday, June 1

10 am – 12 pm

Groundswell is joining the movement of National Trails Day. Join us as we hike a forested section of the Ice Age Trail at Hickory Hill in Cross Plains. Our guide, Kevin Thayer, will point out the unique features of this area.

Thank you for your support.

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Join Groundswell Conservancy outside and get to know the places you help protect. Our expert-led outings offer you unique opportunities to explore wonderful landscapes while meeting others who share your commitment to conservation where you live. Our field trips are free of charge but pre-registration is required. Reserve your spot online today at groundswellwisconsin.org/events.

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Donate for your chance to win

There are so many good reasons to give to Groundswell Conservancy. Give a gift of any amount this spring, between April 15 and June 30, 2019, and you will be entered into a drawing to win two tickets to Lake Wisconsin Cruises! Sustaining members (monthly givers) are automatically entered. Visit groundswellwisconsin.org/drawing for official drawing rules. Give online at groundswellwisconsin.org/donate or mail your donation to Groundswell Conservancy, 303 S. Paterson St., Suite 6, Madison, WI 53793.

Sugar River Paddle
Saturday, April 27
1 pm – 5 pm
Explore the Sugar River with former Groundswell Conservancy Board President, Will Van Haren, as your guide. You’ll learn about the special places protected in the Sugar River area. Everyone is responsible for bringing their own equipment.

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Field of Dreams

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