

landscene

A publication of the Natural Heritage Land Trust Fall 2007

Town of Dunn



More farmland protected in the Town of Dunn

The 68-acre Everson farm, now permanently protected.

In June, the Town of Dunn and the Natural Heritage Land Trust became co-holders of a conservation easement protecting the 68-acre Everson farm. The farm is located near the Yahara River and Lake Kegonsa and is within Dane County's Lower Mud Lake Natural Resource Area. In addition to protecting the productive agricultural soils of the property, the conservation easement allows for the establishment of a link in the proposed Lower Yahara River Bike and Pedestrian Trail.

"The Town facilitated this deal and will co-hold the conservation easement," said

Renée Lauber, Land Use Manager for the Town of Dunn, "but grant money from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) has funded 50% of the easement and made the protection of this farm a reality."

The Natural Heritage Land Trust, which co-holds the easement with the Town of Dunn, will cooperate with the Town to monitor and enforce the terms of the conservation easement.

This is the 18th conservation easement co-held by the Town and Land Trust, protecting a total of 2,446 acres of land in the town ■

Remembering Ken Zander

THE ZANDER FAMILY



On June 27, we lost a great friend of farmland conservation, Ken Zander. Ken was very proud of his rich farmland in the Black Earth Creek valley and was determined to make sure that it would remain available for farming even after he no longer owned the land. So in 2004 he and his wife Charleen signed a conservation easement with the Natural Heritage Land Trust permanently protecting 215 acres.

Known for "telling it like it is", Ken encouraged many of his neighbors in the towns of Berry and Cross Plains to educate themselves about conservation easements and decide if easements would be right for them. His words and his deeds demonstrated Ken's deep devotion to the land and to farming as a way of life.



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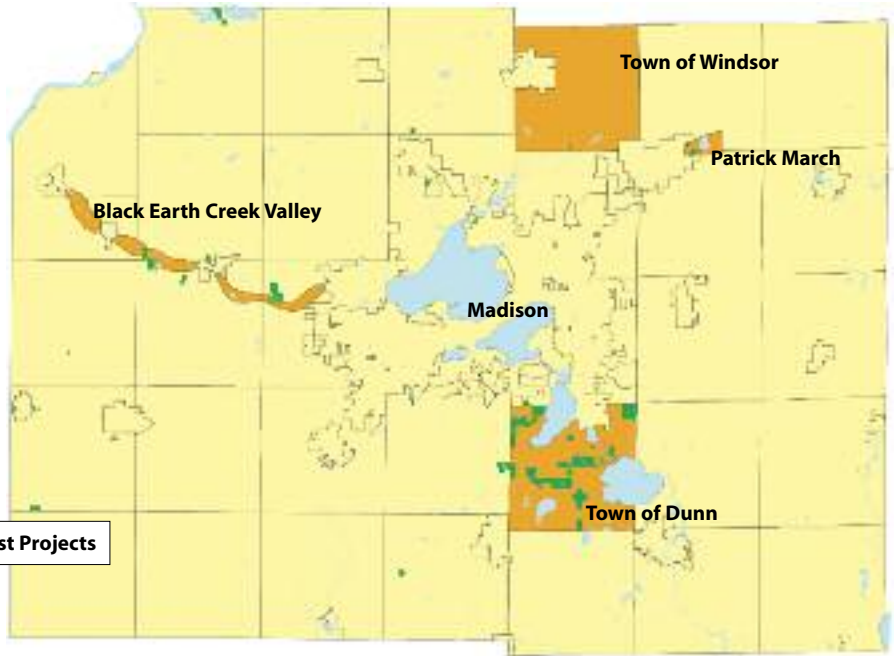
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The Natural Heritage Land Trust protects natural areas, wildlife habitat, working farms, healthy lakes and streams, and recreational land to provide a high quality of life in the Dane County region.



Protecting farmland in the Town of Windsor is a new endeavor for the Natural Heritage Land Trust.

New frontier for farmland preservation in Dane County

The Town of Windsor and the Natural Heritage Land Trust recently agreed to work together to implement the Town's new program to protect farmland through the purchase of development rights. Located northwest of Sun Prairie, Windsor has some of the best farmland in the county. The town recently completed a comprehensive plan that calls for protecting a large block of farmland that forms the heart of the town.

The town has set aside \$500,000 for the program, which is similar to the Town of Dunn's very successful program. The town surveyed farmers this spring and 25 expressed interest in learning more about the program.

The Land Trust's job is to work with individual landowners to develop conservation easements and secure matching grant funds to purchase the conservation easements. ■

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.

Land Trust Board elections held in May

The Natural Heritage Land Trust board of directors elected new officers at its annual meeting on May 23, 2007: Johanna Allex, President; Carla Wright, Vice-President; Mike Dubis, Treasurer; and Jeff Strobel, Secretary. Tom Bergamini and Rob Gottschalk were re-elected to the board.

Four new board members also were elected: Vicki Elkin, Brenda Haskins, David Rice, and Kevin Shelley. Vicki is Stewardship Campaign Director for Gathering Waters Conservancy. Before joining Gathering Waters, Vicki administered the purchase of development rights program for the Town of Dunn. Brenda is an Attorney with Hill, Glowacki, Jaeger & Hughes, LLP. For five years, Brenda was Land Tenure Specialist at the University of Wisconsin's Land Tenure Center. David is a Trust Officer at U.S. Bank Private Client Group. He has law and business degrees from the University of Wisconsin. Kevin is a farmer in the Town of Cottage Grove and an Agriculture and Environment Educator at University of Wisconsin. He served on the Town of Cottage Grove's plan commission and board of supervisors.

Lloyd Eagan, Kathy Pielsticker, and Ken LePine completed their board service in June. Lloyd joined the Board in 1998 and served as Chair of the Stewardship Committee. Kathy joined the Board in 2001 and served as Vice-President and President. Ken joined the Board in 2005 and served as Secretary. We thank them for their service and leadership. ■



Join a work party along Black Earth Creek this fall.

Get your feet wet in Black Earth Creek

Join the Natural Heritage Land Trust and the Southern Wisconsin chapter of Trout Unlimited for three Saturday work parties along Black Earth Creek. We will be cutting vegetation to improve habitat and public access to the stream, and we need your help. The work parties will run from 8 a.m. to noon on September 22, October 13, and November 3. Stay for lunch provided by Trout Unlimited.

Bring work gloves, hand tools if you have them (loppers, small saws, etc.), and rubber boots if you don't want to get your feet wet. Wear long pants and long sleeves to avoid nettles and other prickly plants. Anyone over age 14 is welcome. Please contact Kate Wiperman at 258-9797 or kate@nhlt.org if you would like to join us, and she will provide details about the locations. ■

The permanent protection of more than 475,000 acres of land and water in the state has been made possible by the state's **Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program**. The state legislature is currently debating the reauthorization of the Stewardship Program, which is a vital component of our work to protect Wisconsin's natural heritage. Please voice your support for the Stewardship Program. For legislative updates, check www.gatheringwaters.org/stewardship.

Support Your Local Land Trust Today!

Become a new member or renew your membership today, and help protect natural areas and agricultural lands in the Dane County region. Please fill out this form and return it to Natural Heritage Land Trust, 303 S. Paterson St., Suite 6, Madison, WI 53703.

\$35 \$60 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other _____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Payment Method: Check enclosed (payable to Natural Heritage Land Trust) Bill my credit card: Visa Mastercard

Name on card _____ Card number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

I am interested in making a gift through my will. Please send me information.

To make a credit card donation by phone, please call 608-258-9797. Contributions are tax-deductible as provided for by law.



History 101: The Land Trust's Plymouth Rock

Imagine a beautiful, wooded site not far from you; can you guess what it is?

It is on the shore of Lake Mendota near Eagle Heights. In the early 1980s this area was threatened by development. A group of committed citizens organized a movement to protect this lovely 3.4-acre tract and at the same time create an organization that could safeguard other cherished places.

The place is Wally Bauman Woods and the organization that was formed to protect it was the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation, which is now the Natural Heritage Land Trust. In the woods near the lakeshore you can find a rock which commemorates the campaign to save the woods, and it marks the spot of our first conservation easement. In the 24 years since our establishment, we have helped protect more than 4,500 acres of important land and water and now hold 38 conservation easements.

As we get ready to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Natural Heritage Land Trust in 2008, now is a good time to remember our roots. **Mark your calendar for the Stewardship Awards Celebration and the Land Trust's 25th anniversary on May 1, 2008 at Monona Terrace in Madison.** ■

Wally Bauman Woods is now a part of the University of Wisconsin's Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

For more information, please visit <http://waa.uwalumni.com/lakeshorepreserve/wallybwoods.html>



Progress at Patrick Marsh

The Natural Heritage Land Trust is working to establish a landmark nature preserve on the east side of Sun Prairie. The next phase in our efforts is the acquisition of 72.5 acres of land to add to the 300 acres already protected.

Thanks to expected gifts and grants, the Land Trust has raised \$2.4 million or 93% of the funds needed to complete the land purchase.

We are in the middle of a campaign to raise the last 7% or \$167,000. Many thanks to the over 120 individuals and businesses that have stepped up to help establish a beautiful park at Patrick Marsh. Special thanks to Jeanne Behrend, Tom Hebl, and Bill Wambach for leading the campaign. You can help by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Natural Heritage Land Trust today. ■

The Natural Heritage Land Trust and Patrick Marsh Conservancy recently put up a sign about community efforts to create a landmark nature preserve on Sun Prairie's east side. Our thanks go to volunteer Cary Reich for designing the sign and Mario Quintana for donating the background photo. JFNew and Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC generously underwrote production and construction costs. (Pictured from left to right are Mark Smith, Austin Parma, Jim Welsh, and Bill Wambach.)

Wish list

- 2-line phone
- A carrying case for our laptop (a Compaq Evo)

Thank you!

- To Shirley Droste for helping with membership mailings
- To John Miller for donating use of Louis' Bluff artwork
- To Kevin St. Angel for updating and maintaining our website
- To Aaron Stephenson for creating maps



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