

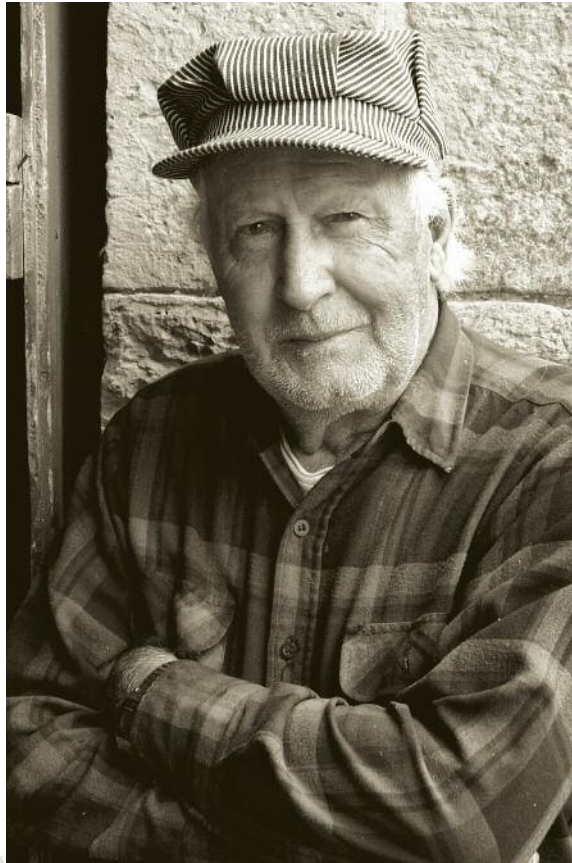
# Driftless

FALL 2011

a newsletter from the Driftless Area Land Conservancy

## In Remembrance of Harold Thomas

by Anne Bachner



Harold Thomas

Harold Thomas owned a beautiful old stone barn visible from highway 151 between Barneveld and Ridgeway. He and his wife were still living on the family farm in the home where he had grown up. I called to ask if I could learn more about the magnificent structure. "You want to see our barn? Take photos? Sure, sure." He had heard the request countless times; he always welcomed visitors who were interested in the stone barn.

*This stone barn remains a tribute to Harold's tenacity, his open mind, and his compelling ability to tell a story that will last into perpetuity.*

A few weeks later I came with a dozen or so dedicated semi-professional photographers who hoped to capture the grandeur of the 100'x40' stone barn. Harold greeted us as we pulled into the barn yard. He was a fine, sturdy looking man, dressed in clean work clothes with a cap to shield his eyes from the sun. Harold's grip was firm and solid, his hands callused, but not rough, and he was not too quick to release my hand. I looked up into his weathered face, and as I met

*(continued on page 3)*



The Thomas Stone Barn is nestled amongst Blue Mound State Park to the northeast, Military Ridge State Trail to the north, and The Nature Conservancy's Barneveld Prairie Preserve to the south.



### Driftless Area Land Conservancy

A non-profit conservation organization dedicated to protecting the rural landscape and quality of life in Southwest Wisconsin. This includes protection of farms, forests, grasslands, wetlands, soils, and the natural beauty of the area.

### In This Issue

In Remembrance of Harold Thomas	1
A Note from the Director	2
Baselines and Monitoring: Stewarding Conservation Easements	4
Charitable Giving 101	5
Recent Events	6
Big Gains in Voluntary Land Conservation Despite Recession	8

## A Note from the Director



David Clutter

*Wisconsin's private landowners are crucial to protecting our natural and cultural heritage.*

As our 10th year as an organization comes to a close we are continually reminded of how fortunate we are to work in this special part of the state, and with such committed conservation partners. This summer and fall we have been collaborating with an outstanding group of landowners on a number of conservation easement projects that we anticipate closing by year-end. We look forward to sharing news of these completed easement deals and the stories behind this group's deep and abiding commitment to the land and future generations. In Wisconsin, a full 85% of our land base is owned by private landowners, making them absolutely crucial to protecting and stewarding our land, water, and food systems – indeed, our natural and cultural heritage.

One such landowner, whom DALC has been fortunate to call our conservation partner, was lifelong Iowa County resident David Harold Thomas. Harold, who passed away in August, will always be known for his vision, wisdom and stewardship of their century farm and one of a kind stone barn. Located in the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area, the Thomas property was originally purchased by his grandparents, Welsh farmers that settled near Barneveld in 1850. They built the stone barn for the ages. The craftsmanship, beauty and durability of this historic barn are unrivaled. Harold recognized the importance of this magnificent structure, his unique farm and the remnant prairie on his property. In 2005, the Thomas family worked with the Driftless Area Land Conservancy to place a conservation and historic preservation easement on their property. We

thank Harold and his family for their commitment to conservation and for helping to create a land and cultural legacy for generations to come.

Over the years the Conservancy has had the good fortune of working with families like the Thomas' because of support from partners like you. Not everyone owns land, but we all have a stake in protecting this special landscape. At this time conservation and environmental philanthropy receives only 2% of all charitable giving in the United States. We believe that protecting the rural landscape and quality of life of Southwest Wisconsin's Driftless Area deserves more. We hope you agree and will consider a gift in support of our land and water conservation programs. If you have any questions, ideas or feedback that you'd like to share with the Conservancy, please feel free to contact me directly at [dave@driftlessconservancy.org](mailto:dave@driftlessconservancy.org).

Please enjoy a safe and happy holiday season, and thank you for your support.



Harold Thomas on his tractor south of the stone barn



### Driftless Area Land Conservancy

PO Box 323  
338 N Iowa Street  
Dodgeville, WI 53533  
608.930.3252

[www.driftlessconservancy.org](http://www.driftlessconservancy.org)

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Mittelstadt – President  
David Kopitzke – Vice President  
Alice Godfrey – Secretary  
Harry Hellen – Treasurer  
Jason Dinges  
Jim O'Brien

#### STAFF

David Clutter – Executive Director  
Jenna Assmus – Membership and Communications Coordinator  
Madelin Jensen – Seasonal Conservation Assistant  
Scott Moucka – Seasonal Conservation Assistant

#### VOLUNTEERS

Anne Bachner, Gay Gibbons,  
Tom & Pam Jensen,  
Brenda Mittelstadt, Susan &  
Mike Van Sicklen, Jim Stiles

## Driftless Welcomes New Board Member Jason Dinges



Jason Dinges

Driftless Area Land Conservancy is thrilled to welcome our new board member Jason Dinges. Jason has already been a wonderful addition to our organization, and we hope some of you had the opportunity to meet him at our annual event last month. Jason grew up on his family's farm in Sublette, Illinois. He now resides in Middleton, Wisconsin, but often returns to visit and help out on the farm as frequently as he can. Jason earned his B.S. in Biology from Illinois Wesleyan University, his Ph.D. in genetics from Iowa State, and a law degree from the University of Iowa. A scientist turned lawyer, Jason has found an area of law that provides an outlet for both in the

practice of patent law. After beginning his law practice drafting biotechnology patents for Foley & Lardner LLP, he now manages a variety of legal affairs for Morningside, a private investment group that invests in private equity and venture capital opportunities in North America, Europe, and Asia Pacific. In his free time, Jason frequently hikes or bicycles the Driftless Area. Other hobbies Jason enjoys include farming, cooking, wine, and sailing. Jason is excited to be a part of Driftless Area Land Conservancy, as the organization provides a way to channel his passion for conservation and the connections people have to the land.

his eyes, I realized that he was pulling all of us into his world, the world of the stone barn.

Of course we took photos—but it was Harold who brought the barn to life, for he was a great raconteur. He would take up the barn story anywhere, infusing each retelling with fresh new relish and wonder.

“My grandfather and his sons built the barn,” he told us, “completing it just in time for the arrival of the railroad in 1880. If you look up, you’ll see the roof is tied to the barn by those tie bars. They weren’t there originally. The first roof was picked up by a tornado and plopped down on a near-by hill, just like a chicken sitting on eggs. Once the roof was back on, my sister would swing hand over hand along the hay rail running the length of the building. She did it just for fun.” When told that the barn was a beautiful edifice, Harold, would reply, “I’ve heard tell that when it was first built, the freshly quarried stone shone in the reflected light of the moon, and travelers at night claimed that it looked like a star from a distance.” We could see that the story of his barn and his family was as much a part of him as breathing.

I asked if I could come back for more stories, and Harold welcomed me each time at the kitchen table where he invariably had something to show me. Once it was tapes of songs he had written and sent to Nashville, another time he brought an old poster advertising one of the many Country and Western bands he played with on the weekends. Sometimes it was a legal document that had been saved from his father’s “cleaning” of the attic. One such document reminded him of his rush to enlist at the beginning of WWII. He planned to fly and blow the Germans out of the sky, but the recruiters convinced him to return home to farm with his father and elder brother. Harold told stories of marrying Amy and starting a family, of the Depression, and of trying to make a living by farming, but he always returned to the stone barn.

The stone barn was remarkably intact for all its 120 years, built solidly of limestone on bedrock, the cantilevered walls were plumb; it would last forever—unless the roof deteriorated, and that was exactly what was happening. Harold knew that he would not be able to save his treasured



The Thomas Barn, view from the east



Madeleine Jensen

The Thomas Barn, built in 1880, is approaching its 132nd winter.

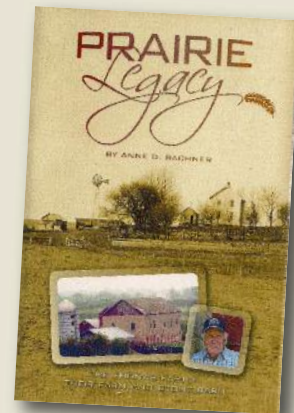
barn in conventional ways, so he began by submitting the family farm story to the state, and officially became a Century Farm. He sold the back 80 acres of pasture to The Nature Conservancy because they agreed to preserve what turned out to be a prairie remnant and protect it from development forever. Then, in 2001 Harold’s stories were reformatted to provide information making the barn eligible to be placed on the State and National Register of Historic Places.

Harold continued to farm—making small bales and feeding calves. He continued telling the barn story to all who would listen, but there was not much more he could do alone. When the director of The Driftless Area Land Conservancy knocked on his door, he listened politely to the organization’s goals to preserve rural open spaces and natural areas. He was all for this if he could continue farming, but what he needed was a new roof for the barn. And so Harold led the director across the barn yard and into the cool, dark space of the barn’s interior. He told the story one more time. This time Harold’s narrative concluded with a new roof for the stone barn—wooden shingles that would last far into the new century. And so it came to be in 2005, that the transaction with the local Driftless Area Land Conservancy was closed. The land would be farmed into perpetuity and in 2006 the barn would have a new roof.

Harold Thomas passed away August 4th, 2011. He no longer can tell his own story. We must read it in the Thomas farm and their stone barn, a proud family monument of vision and hope for prosperity. Harold carried that vision into the 21st century. It remains a tribute to his tenacity, his open mind, and his compelling ability to tell a story that will last into perpetuity.

*We took photos—  
but it was Harold  
who brought the  
barn to life.*

In 2007 Anne Bachner published *Prairie Legacy*, an account of the Thomas family, their farm and stone barn. Anne is a retired language arts teacher, barn enthusiast, and former DALC board member. She was a member of Barns N. O. W. (network of Wisconsin) and is a member of the Driftless Area Land Conservancy. She has restored a barn on her own property and established a conservation easement on 79 acres of wood and crop land adjacent to Governor Dodge State Park.



If you’d like to learn more about the life of the Thomas family, their farm, and the stone barn, Anne Bachner’s book, *Prairie Legacy*, is a great resource.

With a gift of \$50 or more to the Conservancy, you can request a copy of Anne’s book.

# Baselines and Monitoring: Stewarding Conservation Easements

by Madelin Jensen

*Monitoring conservation easements is an important and ongoing responsibility.*

Our organization often highlights recent easement acquisitions as our main land protection accomplishments, but as an entity dedicated to the protection of land, the easements are not the only piece to the puzzle. Driftless Area Land Conservancy, as is the case with all land trusts, holds the perpetual obligation to monitor our easement properties and update or supplement our baseline documentation. In the field of land protection, the conservation easement is the first step in committing to the protection of a property, but the monitoring, annual visits, and land stewardship practices embody the ongoing responsibility and obligation to protect the property as long as it exists...it's work that continues long after the closing signatures.



DALC

**Gordon Creek, a trout stream running through the Thomcor Homestead**



Madelin Jensen

## What is Baseline Documentation?

Baseline documentation establishes the condition of the protected property at the time the conservation easement agreement is signed. The baseline ensures that the easement terms are upheld in perpetuity. The report should identify existing physical conditions, both natural and synthetic, in the form of pictures, species lists, maps, and any other pertinent documents. This inventory includes features that may change through time (e.g., a forest), along with those the landowner may wish to preserve indefinitely (e.g., a prairie). Essentially, baseline documentation provides the information by which we monitor compliant and/or noncompliant change over time.

## Steve Thompson and the DALC team monitor Thomcor conservation easement.

Throughout the course of the year, environmental and human caused changes may occur on the easement properties, which beg the need to update our files. Therefore, one of our goals as a 10-year-old organization, and one of the main reasons Scott and I joined the team, was to update all the necessary baseline reports, create new baselines for ongoing projects, and assist with easement monitoring. The task included taking photographs to mark changes, adding GPS points to our property descriptions, and creating additional maps.

Over the course of the summer and early fall we (along with executive director Dave Clutter) visited each property on which Driftless Area Land Conservancy maintains an easement. We met with landowners, toured the properties, and created reports based on each visit, including photographs and other supplemental descriptions or updates. Monitoring the sites annually as such ensures that the baseline conditions agreed upon at the time of the easement signing are upheld and in compliance with the terms of the easement. While accomplishing the monitoring duties, Scott, Dave, and I were grateful for the opportunity to spend enough time with the landowners to share meaningful stories about the land and strengthen our relationship and familiarity with the places we protect.

One of the properties our team visited was the Thomcor Homestead, located east of Hollandale. The century-old, wonderfully preserved farmstead glowed with a profound sense of history as we drove up the main driveway. Stephen Thompson, sixth-generation owner of the property, greeted us with a beaming smile. Over the course of the afternoon, Thompson enthusiastically gave us a tour of his 244.8 acres, fortunately with the aid of his tractor and trusted canine companion, Gus. Walking through one of three oak-savanna restoration project areas spurred a burst of questions, both from our team and from Stephen, as we all admired the flourishing prairie plants and divine summer clouds. Special outings and noteworthy conversations like that with Mr. Thompson occurred frequently during our team's summer work, much to our delight.

Aside from the oak savanna areas, Thompson's farm also boasts productive cropland, a pine relict covered sandstone bluff, a trout stream, prairies, and fen meadows. Such valuable natural diversity, not only within individual properties but from one property to another, protects the unique range of habitats in our region and helps assure sustainability of local plants, animals and natural features. It also creates a fantastic monitoring experience!

In addition to highlighting the richness of the land and its resources, our summer monitoring visits connected our team with the people living on and caring for those lands, such as Stephen Thompson. As Thompson expressed in 2006 in a letter describing the property to Driftless Area Land Conservancy, "...I am going to take the liberty of interspersing social history because I believe it is often intertwined with the natural setting." This idea was reinforced many times during the time we spent with property owners. We grew to understand the vibrant multitude of unique stories, relationships, and pasts that enrich their (and by association our) lives in ways that the land alone cannot illustrate.

In contemplating support for a nonprofit organization, many people may wonder about the variety of different giving options. The following discussion lays out a variety of approaches for you to consider in supporting nonprofits like Driftless Area Land Conservancy. The Conservancy would like to thank financial expert Rob McCalla for donating his time and expertise for this article.

**Q: I know that supporting Driftless Area Land Conservancy with tax-deductible cash donations (either on-line or through the mail) is one of the easiest ways to support the organization. Are there other methods of giving that I may want to consider?**

**A:** As discussed in the Summer 2011 Driftless newsletter, leaving money and/or personal property through a will or living trust is a common way of making a “legacy gift”. This approach can appeal to those who are unable to provide support to the Conservancy during their lifetime but want to assure support after their passing.

**Q: What about different ways to provide support to the Conservancy while one is still living? It would be satisfying to see my support in action.**

**A:** There are many different ways people can reach their charitable goals while living. The first step is to identify assets you don't feel will be essential to your future financial needs and consider either gifting them to DALC or selling them outright and gifting the proceeds. Examples include investments (stocks, bonds, mutual funds), retirement savings (IRAs, 401(k)s, 403(b)s), and real estate (undeveloped land, income property, and residential real estate). All are suitable candidates for supporting charitable organizations like the Conservancy.

**Q: Let's say I do have some assets that I don't need for my future financial well-being—does it make a difference whether I give them to the Conservancy directly or sell them first and donate cash?**

**A:** Yes, it can make quite a difference. The key here is whether or not you would have to pay any taxes upon the sale of the assets. Let's say you have some stocks and mutual funds that, despite the recent turmoil in the market, are worth more than you have invested in them over time. If you were to sell them, you would have to pay taxes (capital gains or ordinary income tax depending on how long you have held them) on the gain. Depending on your situation you would still be able to take a deduction for your contribution, but the taxes paid would reduce what you could give. On the other hand, if you donate those assets to the Conservancy, we can sell them without taxation and put the full value to work right away. The value of your donation is not reduced by taxes, and you may still be eligible for a significant tax deduction. Obviously, any detailed discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of any of these approaches is something that you should take up with your tax advisor.

**Q: Well, due to the recent market turmoil, I have investments that are worth a lot less than I paid for them. Should I still think about donating the**

*(continued on page 7)*



Bobolink

Thompson put it beautifully in sharing, “The legacy is the joy that the beauty of the landscape has given this family over the past 150 years.” Our work over the summer, and more generally the act of monitoring a property with its proprietor, uncovered many of the legacies that these lands possess, in addition to their resources and striking physical

features. The maps and files we create describing a property have the ability to convey an immense amount of information, but they fail to deliver the full spectrum narrative that a landowner can provide.

We wrapped up the visit at Thompson's farm with some closing photographs, a game of fetch with Gus, and a discussion of the highlights of the afternoon, including our encounter with a Bobolink (a bird of special concern in Wisconsin). We drove away from the farmstead with the

realization that each property possesses a unique and dynamic personality. From farmland to prairie, stream bottoms to the hillside rock outcrops, pine relicts to oak savannas and everything in between, the landscapes and stories of the easement properties are as diverse as the driftless landscape itself. Fittingly, annual monitoring serves to remind us of the true essence and quality of these special lands we help protect.

Aside from being a necessary aspect of operating an effective land trust, our time on the easement properties provided the chance to cultivate ongoing relationships with the landowners and the land. Participating in annual easement monitoring is a declaration of our commitment to the landowners and the protection of these exceptional places long after the easement document is signed. Scott and I, as recent college graduates in the early stages of our careers, feel privileged for the opportunity to work and learn with Driftless Area Land Conservancy and the Driftless Area community in such a meaningful and extraordinary way.

*There are a variety of ways to support the Conservancy.*

**Robert B. McCalla, PhD, CLU, ChFC, CFP®**  
Robert McCalla is the Director of the Personal Finance Program within the Department of Consumer Science at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Dr. McCalla teaches undergraduate courses in Personal Finance, Investments, Estate Planning, and Financial Plan Development. Before joining the Department of Consumer Science, Rob spent 13 years in the financial services industry as a financial planner, trainer, and advanced markets expert.

If you have included a bequest to the Driftless Area Land Conservancy as part of your estate plan please let us know. We value such a profound commitment to our mission and would appreciate the opportunity to thank you in your lifetime.

**Suggested bequest language:**

“I give \$ \_\_\_\_\_ [a specific amount, or alternatively, \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the residuary of my estate] to the Driftless Area Land Conservancy (tax ID#: 39-2017802), a nonprofit corporation incorporated in the State of Wisconsin and having its principal offices at 338 N. Iowa Street, P.O. Box 323, Dodgeville, WI 53533, for its general purposes.”

## Recent Events

### Membership Event: A Fall Harvest



Executive Director, David Clutter, welcomes DALC members to the annual celebration, hosted at Folklore Village.



Conservancy members enjoy a beautiful, warm afternoon at the annual celebration

Greg Petz

Nan Rucid

Thank you to all of our partners who contributed time, auctions items, and funds to our 2011 Annual Event:

- Alliant Energy
- American Players Theatre
- American Transmission Company
- Applied Ecological Services
- Cates Family Farm
- David Kopitzke
- Driftless Studio
- Eagle Optics
- Fieldhouse Fruit Farm
- Folklore Village
- Gay Gibbons
- King's Hill Farm
- Lake Louie Brewing
- Lands' End
- M&I Bank
- Mary Kay Baum, Memory, Inc.
- Natural Resources Foundation
- Organic Valley Cooperative
- Tom and Pam Jensen
- Trout Unlimited, Duke Welter and Brian Larson
- Trusted Earth Farm and Forage
- Whole Foods Market

Thank you to all who joined us at our 10-year anniversary and annual meeting at Folklore Village this past October. We had a wonderful time meeting with you and enjoying an outstanding presentation by our keynote speaker, Todd Amb. For more than 30 years, Todd has worked in the environmental policy field. From 2003 until becoming President of the national nonprofit River Network in May 2010, he ran the Water Division for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. During the meeting a participant requested a copy of Todd's many water-related facts. Though we can't share Todd's presentation with all of our members, we thought we could at least include some of his fun facts in the newsletter for your benefit.



Mary Kay Baum

Todd Amb

#### Wisconsin's Water and Recreational Facts:

- 15,000 lakes throughout our state
- 84,000 miles of rivers
- 1,000 miles of great lakes shoreline
- 5.3 million acres of wetlands
- More than 575,000 registered boats
- 1.4 million anglers
- 3,719,000 angling days by non-residents
- \$13.1 billion spent by tourists in 2010
- Wisconsin residents ranked swimming as 3rd favorite outdoor activity
- Polluted runoff is the largest water quality threat in Wisconsin, impacting 90% of lakes and 40% of rivers and streams

### Land Trust Alliance "Rally"

Earlier this past October, representatives of Conservancy staff and board were very fortunate to attend the Land Trust Alliance's "Rally" in Milwaukee. This annual gathering is held in different cities throughout the nation and brings together an outstanding pool of experts and land trusts to participate and/or provide training in the form of seminars, workshops and peer-to-peer engagement. LTA, as it's more colloquially known, is a national convener, strategist and representative of more than 1,700 land trusts across the country, and functions much in the way Gathering Waters Conservancy supports and builds land trust capacity here in Wisconsin.

Conservancy staff and board attended workshops and sessions related to legal and ethical aspects of managing a land trust, managing an access database, and 2012 Farm Bill strategies and updates. There was an absolutely enormous amount of information to process from this three-day conference. As one colleague put it, "attending Rally is like trying to drink from a fire hose." And we couldn't think of a more accurate or apt metaphor! So, cheeks bulging, we returned energized, focused, full of new ideas and poised to continue building our organizational systems to meet our charge of protecting the rural landscape and quality of life of Southwest Wisconsin's Driftless Area.

investments? Is there any advantage in thinking about allocating the investments for charitable purposes?

- A:** Yes, even when investments have lost money, there are still some possible advantages to using them for charitable purposes—you just go about it a little differently. Depending on your overall financial situation, you may be able to sell those investments for a loss and deduct that loss against other income or investment gains. In this case, you would sell those investments and make a charitable contribution of the proceeds. Once again, whether or not this makes financial sense for you will depend on your specific financial situation. In this, as with all of these discussions, consulting your tax advisor is the best approach to take.
- Q:** You mentioned retirement accounts as possible sources of support for charitable causes. I didn't think you could do that—can you?
- A:** You have always been able to name a charity (like DALC) as a beneficiary of a retirement account. The advantage to the charity is that they receive their share

of the account at your death tax-free and your estate may be eligible for a tax deduction. What is new in the past few years, and will be going away very soon under the current rules, is that you can transfer money—up to \$100,000 under current rules—directly from an IRA to a charity if you are over 70 ½ and meet some other requirements. The advantage of this, like other lifetime gifts, is that you get the satisfaction of both knowing your gift has been made and seeing the results in action. There may be additional tax advantages for you as well. As before, consulting your tax advisor, and possibly your attorney, is strongly advised.

**Q:** Well, it seems there are many different options to contemplate. If I decide I want to follow through on any of these ideas, what should I do?

**A:** Please contact David Clutter, Executive Director of Driftless Area Land Conservancy at 608-930-3252, or by email at [dave@driftlessconservancy.org](mailto:dave@driftlessconservancy.org). He will be able to help answer your questions, and work with you to decide the best way for you to support the work of the Conservancy to protect the rural landscape and quality of life in Southwest Wisconsin.

- JANUARY–NOVEMBER  
 Deane & Edith Army  
 Anne Bachner  
 Alliant Energy Foundation  
 Winifred E. Batson  
 Ann Behrmann  
 Paul & Linda Bishop  
 Mary Bossert  
 Ginger Brand & Paul Biere  
 Richard & Kim Cates  
 Douglas & Sherry Caves  
 Laurits & Beatrice Christensen  
 Citizens Natural Resources Association  
 Stephanie Comer  
 William Cotey  
 Clarency & Mary Curtis  
 William & Susan DeRonne  
 Jason Dinges  
 Bruce and Rosemary Ehr  
 Eva & Avery Eliscu  
 Edgar & Carol Ellinghausen  
 Darrell & Sally Foell  
 Scott and Maria Fowkes  
 Paul Gaynor  
 Boyd & Marcia Geer  
 Alice & Richard Godfrey  
 Donald & Marlene Gasch  
 Gordon Greishaber  
 Constance & Donald Gronemus  
 Mary Gutknecht  
 Elizabeth Haban  
 John Hardiman  
 Henry Hart  
 Harry & Alyssa Hellen  
 Anne Helsley-Marchbanks  
 James Herrmann  
 Virginia & David Jensen  
 Mary Jervis  
 Paul Kaarakka  
 David Kopitzke  
 Harold & Rosanne Krubsack  
 David Ladd  
 Howard Learner & Lauren Rosenthal  
 Chris & Carol Lind  
 Barbara & Mike Logiudice  
 Gabriele Lubach  
 Brent & Deborah McCown  
 John and Nancy Meyers  
 Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin  
 Kenneth Powell  
 Margaret Rasch & David Stute  
 Keith & Gail Ray  
 Ron Reynolds  
 Steve & Janice Ross  
 Ted Ross  
 William Rudolph  
 Jan Scalpone  
 Barbara Sheldon  
 Lucas & Laurie Satter  
 James & Janice Spredemann  
 Chuck and Karen Tennessen  
 Susan & Donald Trudell  
 Tom Shields  
 Gail & Willi Van Haren  
 Michael & Susan Van Sicklen  
 Melinda & Christopher Vernon  
 JoAnn Walsh  
 Topf Wells & Sally Probasco  
 James Wellman  
 Sharyn Wisniewski & Hugh Iltis  
 Steven Ziegler

Thank You to Our Generous Corporate and Foundation Supporters



Laurits R. Christensen Charitable Foundation | Sandy Oaks Foundation | Blanchardville/Hollandale Area Fund and Argyle Fund through the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin | The Comer Foundation Fund at the Chicago Community Trust | Echo Rock Fund through the Boston Foundation

MEMBERSHIP FORM | Driftless Area Land Conservancy

**YES, I want to help the Driftless Area Land Conservancy protect the special places in Southwest Wisconsin.**

Enclosed you will find my gift of:

- Prairie Conserver (\$35)
- Oak Savanna Protector (\$50)
- Farm Guardian (\$100+)
- Driftless Area Defender (\$500+)
- 100 Friends of the Driftless Area (\$1,000+)

- I'd like to volunteer my time as well.
- I'd like my copy of *Prairie Legacy* (\$50 level or above)

All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Financial statement available upon request.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with your check (payable to *Driftless Area Land Conservancy*) to:

**Driftless Area Land Conservancy, P.O. Box 323, Dodgeville, WI 53533**

If you find that we have missed you on our list, please contact us so we can ensure that our records are up to date.

# Driftless



## Driftless Area Land Conservancy

338 North Iowa Street  
P.O. Box 323  
Dodgeville, WI 53533  
608.930.3252

[www.driftlessconservancy.org](http://www.driftlessconservancy.org)

Non-profit org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. One  
Madison, WI

## Renewal

Beginning in 2012, only current members of Driftless Area Land Conservancy will receive our newsletter,

# Driftless



We hope you'll renew your membership with the Conservancy. To do so please see the membership form on page 7.

## Big Gains in Voluntary Land Conservation Despite Recession

The first nationwide census of land trusts in five years found 10 million new acres conserved since 2005, despite a down economy. At the local and state level, endowments to ensure that land remains protected more than doubled, and operating endowments, an indicator of the staying power of these organizations, almost tripled. The census is online at [www.lta.org/census](http://www.lta.org/census).

By comparison, over the same time period the federally funded Land and Water Conservation Program saw a 38% funding cut and added just over 500,000 acres.

"Americans value their land, and they are conserving it at the local level," said Land Trust Alliance President Rand Wentworth. "While government is shrinking, local land trusts are saving more land than is lost to development. Communities nationwide value clean water, local food, and places to play, and they are investing in those places close to home."



*Americans value their land, and they are conserving it at the local level.*

The National Land Trust Census, released by the Land Trust Alliance, shows that voluntarily protected land increased 27 percent between 2005 and 2010. A greater percentage of the new acreage comes through local and state land trusts working within local communities. A total of 47 million acres—an area over twice the size of all the national parks in the contiguous United States—are now protected by land trusts.

**Driftless Area Land Conservancy** would like to thank Land Trust Alliance (LTA) for their leadership and training programs (see "Rally" page 6). Based in Washington, D.C., the Land Trust Alliance is a national conservation organization that leads a network of 1,700 land trusts working throughout the country.