

Driftless

SUMMER 2011

a newsletter from the Driftless Area Land Conservancy



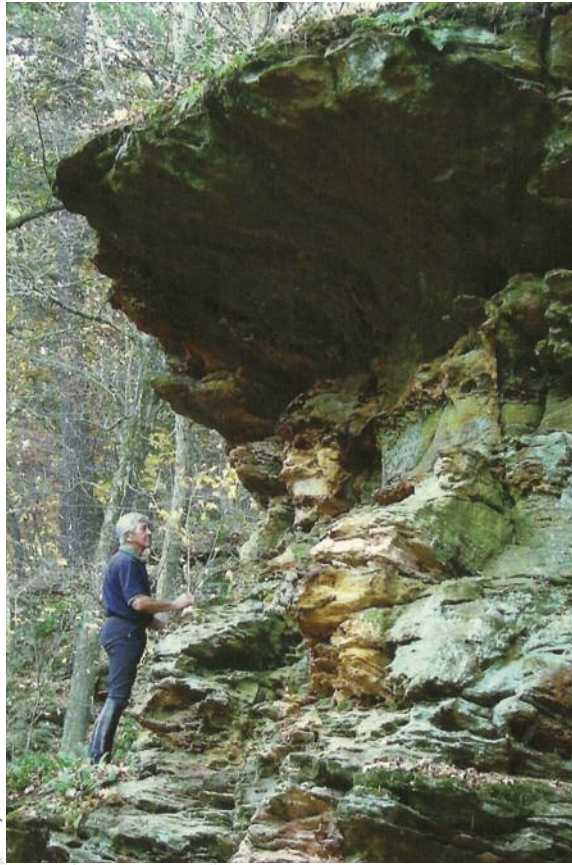
Driftless Area Land Conservancy

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.

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Bookends: The Malcolm Stack Foundation Donates Second Conservation Easement



Courtesy of The Malcolm Stack Foundation

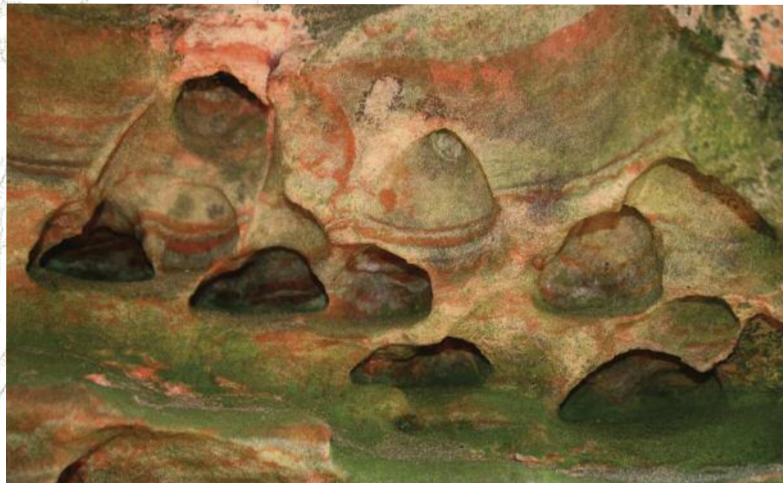
Malcolm Stack

This year the Driftless Area Land Conservancy celebrates our 10-year anniversary with a "bookend easement donation" that features a wonderful conservation partnership and the protection of one of Wisconsin's most unique natural communities (see Pine Relicts). In 2003 The Malcolm Stack Foundation donated a 54-acre conservation easement to Driftless Area Land Conservancy, representing one of our very first conservation easement projects. Our most recent easement donation, signed just this month, protects the remaining 105-acres of The Malcolm Stack Foundation

This easement protects one of Wisconsin's most ancient and unique natural communities — Pine Relicts.

property and solidifies the Foundation's commitment to helping protect one of Wisconsin's truly unique and rare natural communities. Since the time of The Malcolm Stack Foundation's first easement donation, the Conservancy has protected roughly 2,500 acres and 12 properties. It is fitting that the Foundation "bookend's" our first ten years with this second important easement donation.

(continued on page 3)



Anne Connor

Rock Formation



Anne Connor

Nature Trail

Conservation in a Partisan Age



David Clutter

We share values with regard to our conservation future.

Partisan Politicos Share Concern for Conservation

These are clearly difficult economic and political times. Partisan politicians on both sides of the aisle continue to hammer away at their respective opponents, while the electorate becomes collateral damage. Over these past months many in the conservation community have worried about the embittered and embattled politics of today and how that might affect essential conservation programs.

Fortunately, politicians of all stripes seem to recognize the rich history and significance of conservation in this state. By supporting legislation that enables continuation of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program (Stewardship Program) and Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements program (PACE), they clearly value the protection of natural and agricultural lands, wildlife populations and clean water. In doing so they are promoting the future ecological and economic well being of our state.

We are grateful to all of you who have called your representatives and expressed your support for these important programs. We'd like to extend a big thank you to Gathering Waters Conservancy for their outstanding work in organizing the land trust community and providing the tools and information needed to inform our legislators and membership. We were very pleased to also learn that the State will follow-through on their commitment to fund the 16 "first round" PACE projects approved by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). The Conservancy received approval for funding on 2 of the 16 successfully awarded PACE projects.

DALC's Commitment to Private Conservation

Our most recent conservation easement, a 105-acre easement donation signed just this month by the Malcolm Stack Foundation, represents a continued private partnership to protect one of the most beautiful and ecologically unique natural communities in Southwest Wisconsin, our pine relicts. This, their second easement donation to the Conservancy since our founding, is a clear declaration of the Stack Foundation's commitment to helping safeguard our natural world. This partnership illustrates that by working together private landowners and nonprofits can have a significant impact on the health and well-being of land and people.

DALC Members In a Partnership for the Future

There was a reason that the Stewardship Program was named after Gaylord Nelson (a Democrat) and Warren Knowles (a Republican). These two former Wisconsin Governors, both champions for conservation, represent the values of Wisconsinites throughout the state, regardless of political affiliation. Given the rancor that we're experiencing today at all levels of government, liberals, conservatives and progressives here in Wisconsin still, fortunately, share similar values with regard to our conservation future. Whether it is a policy issue or protecting land directly, we depend upon your partnership to help us protect this special part of Wisconsin. To that end we'd like to recognize your commitment to conservation and invite you to join us this October 9 at our annual meeting to celebrate 10 years of conservation in Southwest Wisconsin's Driftless Area. Thank you to ALL who value our conservation heritage and care for our children's future.

New Staff

Jenna Assmus



Jenna joined the Driftless Area Land Conservancy in May as the Membership and Communications Coordinator. While a native of the Driftless area, much of her childhood was spent

on the plains of South Dakota. She attended college in Iowa and after a four years working with environmental nonprofits in Washington State she is happy to be back in Wisconsin. Most recently she has worked with the Natural Resources Foundation and the Wisconsin State Parks Program. Jenna holds a degree in Graphic Design and is excited to be part of an organization protecting the beautiful and unique lands of Southwest Wisconsin. If you would like to contact Jenna, she can be reached at jenna@driftlessconservancy.org.

Madelin Jensen



Madelin Jensen and Scott Moucka started at Driftless Area Land Conservancy in mid-May, fulfilling part-time positions as Easement Baseline and Monitoring Assistants. Both new employees are recent UW Madison graduates with degrees in Geography and Environmental Studies.

Madelin's studies focused on the interactions between people and their environment, and she hopes to pursue a career in conservation to protect the integrity of this important relationship. Being a native Wisconsinite, Madelin's goals in conservation are to protect this beautiful state she calls home, and the driftless area is the perfect place to get started!

Scott studied the physical processes and landforms of Wisconsin and is excited to be working in and helping to preserve such a beautiful and unique landscape. He also works at the Wisconsin DNR helping with the land acquisition process. Scott will return to UW Madison this fall to complete the Certificate in Geographic Information Systems. He plans to continue working in the conservation field, helping to preserve our state's natural resources.

Scott Moucka



Driftless Area Land Conservancy

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608.930.3252

www.driftlessconservancy.org

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Mark Mittelstadt – President
David Kopitzke – Vice President
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STAFF

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

VOLUNTEERS

Anne Bachner, Gay Gibbons,
Brenda Mittelstadt, Mark Rooney,
Mike Van Sicklen, Jim Stiles

In addition to protecting the pine relict forests and associated oak woodlands, the conservation easement will permit and encourage continued uses such as field trips, guided hikes, photography, artist clinics, nature study and aesthetic enjoyment. In addition, plant communities and associated wildlife will benefit from this significant block of permanently protected habitat. The Malcolm Stack Foundation was established in 2001 to promote land conservation and

education. The Foundation is dedicated to conserving land in the Driftless Area; and, in particular, Foundation directors feel that it is imperative to preserve the pine relicts forests found on the property for future generations. Driftless Area Land Conservancy appreciates and values our partnership with The Malcolm Stack Foundation and would like to sincerely thank the Foundation board members for their commitment to conservation in southwest Wisconsin.

These pine forests have persisted since the last glacier retreated some 10,000 years ago.

Southwest Wisconsin's Pine Relicts: Our Oldest Driftless Denizens

These remnants from the glacial era are so sparse and hidden from noisy civilization that they are virtually unknown by most Wisconsin residents. Even if one chances upon a stand of these tall pines, perhaps during a walk or in pursuit of a deer or turkey, he or she may not consider the relationship of this forest community to our glacial past. Each relict, often less than 5 acres, typically contains over 75% of the 25 most common species in the northern pine forests. The resulting community, a unique blend of northern and southern species, deserves our veneration, care and protection.

Pine relicts are pine forest communities that have persisted in southern Wisconsin since the last glacier retreated some 10,000 years ago. These relicts were part of what was once an expansive pine dominated landscape in a cool southern Wisconsin climate. As time passed and the climate gradually warmed (~6,500-3,000 years ago) prairie and oak savannas replaced nearly all of the pine forests throughout southern Wisconsin, except in very steep draws and among the rocky cliffs in the Driftless Area of Southwest Wisconsin. The Ridgeway pines are only one of two large pine relicts in Southern Wisconsin.

For more information on Wisconsin DNR-owned Ridgeway Pine Relict (No. 326) see:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/sna/index.asp?SNA=326>



Thomas Meyer, DNR

Thomas Meyer, DNR

Recent and Upcoming Events



Founding board member Doug Booth and his wife Carol

Wines, Pines and Equines

Earlier this May the Driftless Area Land Conservancy hosted a donor appreciation event at the beautiful Malcolm Stack Foundation to thank and recognize our 2010 donors, contributors and volunteers. 2010 was a year of transition and change for the organization and thanks to our supporters we accomplished a great deal. Steve Apfelbaum, founder, chairman and owner of Applied Ecological Services, one of the leading ecological consulting firms in the world, gave a wonderful presentation about his book *Nature's Second Chance: Restoring the Ecology of Stone Prairie Farm*. Steve spoke of land restoration as a process of change, recovery and, ultimately, personal reward.

For more information on Steve Apfelbaum's *Nature's Second Chance*, or his new book *Restoring Ecological Health to Your Land* (with co-author Alan W. Haney), please contact us at 608-930-3252.



Ursula and Gerd Muehlechner

SAVE THE DATE

October 9 Annual Membership Event

We are very excited to host our annual membership event this coming October 9 at Folklore Village, near Dodgeville, WI. We would love for you join us! Come meet fellow conservationists, learn more about our organization, enjoy a wonderful program and experience a nationally recognized folk arts and culture center in Folklore Village. Folklore Village is a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to enriching lives through time-honored traditions. Since 1968, thousands of people of all ages have come to Folklore Village to gather with friends, meet new people, to eat, dance, sing and play. Folklore Village sits on 94 acres of lovely rolling countryside and is easily accessible from Highway 18/151. Their 40-acre tall-grass prairie has established hiking trails and destination benches for folks to enjoy.

Please visit our website at www.driftlessconservancy.org for more information on this upcoming event. Hope to see you there!

Thomcor Homestead Recognized



David Clutter presents Steve Thompson, and his dog Gus, with a certificate of appreciation to recognize Thomcor Homestead's protection of 245 acres through the Driftless Area Land Conservancy. The award was presented at a national US Fish & Wildlife refuge conference tour featuring important projects and properties of Wisconsin's Southwest Grasslands and Stream Conservation Area. Thomcor Homestead, Inc. established the easement in September of 2010.



A Lasting Legacy

One of the most meaningful ways to save those places important to you is to gift money and/or personal property through your will or living trust – your legacy gift. Also known as a bequest or planned gift, a legacy gift is an excellent way to plan the management of your estate, provide for your family and/or friends and ensure a lasting legacy for the causes that have meant so much to you in this lifetime.

They are easy to set-up and, if need be, change, and they provide you with comfort and peace of mind in knowing that your actions will help forward the mission of the charity that you support. There are many ways to structure a planned gift. For example one may include a percent of one's estate or a specific dollar amount that can be gifted to the charity.

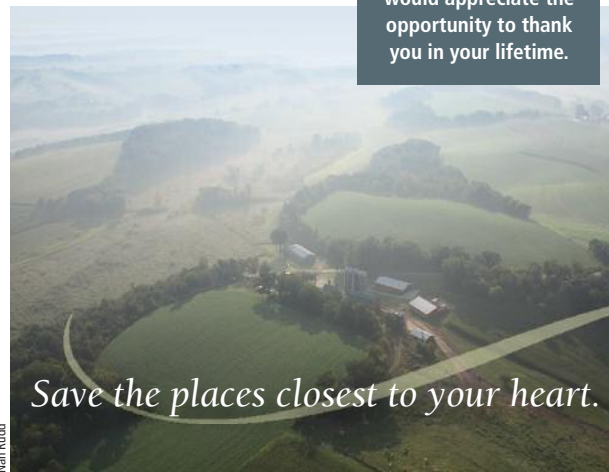
It is recommended that one consult an estate-planning attorney when designing your estate plan; and, because states have varying requirements with regard to bequests, it is recommended that you speak with an attorney in the state or community where your charity is located. With that in mind, we suggest that you give the following suggested bequest language to your attorney:

"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."

General purposes may include the myriad personal and overhead costs associated with completing conservation easements. Please be certain to consult your attorney on the language and tax effect of any charitable bequest.

If you are interested in learning more about bequests, or any other ways of making a planned gift, please feel free to contact David Clutter, executive director, at 608-930-3252 or dave@driftlessconservancy.org.

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.

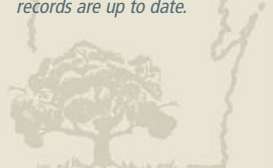


Non Ruddle

Our Donors

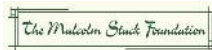
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 - Ann Behrmann
 - Paul & Linda Bishop
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 - Sharyn Wisniewski & Hugh Ittis

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.



Thank You to Our Generous Corporate and Foundation Supporters

Thank You



Laurits R. Christensen Charitable Foundation | Sandy Oaks Foundation | Blanchardville/Hollandale Area Fund and Argyle Fund through the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin | The Corner 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



**Driftless Area
Land Conservancy**

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

www.driftlessconservancy.org

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SAVE THE DATE



**Driftless Area Land
Conservancy Annual
Membership Event**

October 9



**Land Trust
Alliance Rally,
Milwaukee**

October 13-16

Status of Stewardship and PACE

By Mike Strigel, *Gathering Waters Conservancy*

Gathering Waters Conservancy is pleased to report that even in a difficult economic climate and a challenging state budget process, the advocacy of Wisconsin's land trust community has produced positive results for the **Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program** and the statewide **Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) Program**. In the coming years, Stewardship will continue to be well-funded at \$60 million a year (with \$12 million available for land trusts), and will include important tools such as the use of conservation easements and payments in lieu of property taxes to local communities for DNR purchases. The PACE Program will also continue to be authorized and will have approximately \$5 million in funding for the first round of applications.

We want to thank everyone in the land trust community who reached out to their legislators or were otherwise involved in the state budget process. The positive outcome would not have been possible without a broad coalition of individuals

and organizations in Wisconsin's land trust community and beyond. The political and geographical diversity of Wisconsin's land trust leaders – executive directors, board members, and supporters – provided an extraordinary opportunity to help Gathering Waters promote the long, bi-partisan legacy of land protection in the state and to demonstrate the broad base of support for Stewardship and PACE.

Even with this recent victory, our advocacy work on behalf of the Stewardship Program is certainly not complete – we're now focusing our efforts on our agency relations work at the DNR and DATCP, and in the coming months, we will work to ensure that the Stewardship grants process continue to be efficient and effective and that the PACE Program remains a viable tool for farmland protection in Wisconsin.



Driftless Area Land Conservancy would like to extend a big thank you to Gathering Waters Conservancy for their outstanding work in organizing the land trust community and providing us with the tools and information necessary to inform our legislators and membership about the Stewardship and PACE programs.