

Spring 2012

landscene

Natural Heritage
LAND TRUST

**PERMANENTLY
PROTECTED**



Headwaters of Anthony Branch Creek Protected

This Town of Rutland farmland is permanently protected thanks to the generosity of the landowner.

In December the Land Trust received the donation of a 181-acre conservation easement on a working farm in the Town of Rutland in southern Dane County. The farm is a beautifully undulating patchwork of fields and woodlands in the hummocky landscape that marks the outer extent of the last glaciation. It is here that a mountain of ice stood for 5,000 years depositing random assortments of rocks before retreating in the face of a warming climate. Remnants of the ice front remained, hidden in underground bunkers, but these too melted away. Without this icy support, the land above collapsed forming the hummocks that give the farm its picturesque relief.

The farm flanks the western border of the DNR's Anthony Branch Fisheries and Wildlife Area, a 1,000-acre complex of wetlands and uplands surrounding Anthony Branch (also known as Rutland Branch), a valuable cold-water trout stream. The farm lies at the stream's headwaters where a bountiful spring flows up from the glacial till, filling the stream with clear, cold water.

Permanent protection of this farm was not only the desire of the landowner, it was consistent with the goals of the community as expressed in the Town of Rutland's comprehensive land use plan, Dane County's proposed plans for a Badfish Creek Natural Resource Area in the newest Parks and Open Space Plan, and the DNR's Anthony Branch boundary plan. This project is an example of how Natural Heritage Land Trust can help the community realize their land use goals using our tools for permanent land protection. In this case, a conservation easement, which prevents the farm from being developed, provided the best tool for protecting its valuable agricultural, open space, and water resources, while keeping it in private ownership and on the tax rolls.

We are excited about this latest conservation success and we thank the landowner for his generous conservation gift. ■

The spectacular view of the Wisconsin River from Louis' Bluff

SARA DEKOK



Bird Walk at Louis' Bluff Saturday, May 12 8:00 – 10:00 am

Grab your binoculars and join us for our spring bird walk. We'll be visiting Louis' Bluff, an impressive sandstone formation rising above the Wisconsin River at the northern end of the Wisconsin Dells. The dramatic scenery at this 133-acre conservation easement includes huge white pines flanked by floodplain forest and 7,000 feet of river shoreline. The Land Trust's Conservation Specialist Caleb Pourchot will help us identify warblers and other neotropical migrants.

This will be a moderately strenuous hike and participants must be at least 12 years old. The field trip is free of charge but space is limited and pre-registration is required. To register, please contact Heidi Habeger at heidi@nhlt.org or 258-9797.

Sign-up Today!

P.S. Get your picture taken overlooking the Wisconsin River. Our ace photographer Mario Quintana will be there to capture the perfect shot of you at Louis' Bluff. ■



SCS BT SQUARED



Rod Lea (standing) gives a tour of his 221-acre farm that was permanently protected by the state's PACE program.



PERMANENTLY
PROTECTED

State's first PACE project completed in Jefferson County

In 2010, the State's Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, under the leadership of the late Rod Nilsen, developed a statewide program to protect Wisconsin's most productive farmlands (PACE). Sixteen farms from around the state were selected in the first round of the program.

In 2011, new state leadership discontinued the program before any farmland was protected. However, after intense lobbying efforts, funding was maintained for the original 16 farms. In December the Land Trust assisted Jefferson County in completing the first PACE project in the state on the #1-ranked farm in the program. The USDA's Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program provided matching funds to protect the farm.

Rod Lea, whose farm was permanently protected, is a staunch advocate for farmland preservation in Jefferson County. The way he sees it, good farmland should grow crops, not houses. "I've lived here my entire life. I've seen the farmland get broken up by the subdivisions," says Rod. "This program should have been in place 30 years ago." ■

Trewartha Bobolink Hill Farm Walk Saturday, May 19 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

In 2003, landowner Mary Trewartha donated a conservation easement to the Land Trust on her 169-acre farm. Come see the fruits of Mary's restoration of the prairie and savanna as we hike through lupine blooms and the aerial displays of bobolinks.

This will be a fairly easy walk on trails. The field trip is free but space is limited and pre-registration is required. **To register contact Heidi Habeger at heidi@nhlt.org or 258-9797.**



VOLUNTEER PROFILE



Thank you Cary Moon Reich

Volunteer Cary Moon Reich designs signs for the Natural Heritage Land Trust. Her work graces the kiosk at Westport Drumlin and signs at Patrick Marsh Natural Resource Area, Avon Bottoms Wildlife Area, and Brooklyn Wildlife Area. Members since 2005, Cary and her husband Scott live near Westport Drumlin.

How did you fall in love with nature?

I grew up on the Bark River, at Hammerson's Pond, in Fort Atkinson. It is a beautiful place with lots of birdlife and snapping turtles. We canoed the river and camped in the backyard. One of my favorite memories is flying over the Bark on our rope swing. My science teachers in junior high and high school were enthusiastic and encouraged their students to appreciate our natural world. Experiences like that helped me fall in love with nature.

When did you become interested in graphic design?

I grew up in a home that was filled with music and art. My parents are musically inclined, and my brother, sister, and I all took music lessons. My dad is an artist and photographer. He worked as a product designer and engineer and I fondly remember the smell of his drafting pencils and erasers. Early on, I thought I might become either a forest ranger or work in graphic arts. As it turned out, I studied drawing and print making in college, and received my bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from UW Eau Claire.

How do you approach a sign design project?

I try to keep it simple. My approach is to let the surroundings speak for themselves. Depending on the sign's purpose, I like to include photos of animals and plants that visitors might not see due to the season or other situation. For example, my parents visited Westport Drumlin last fall. They sat on the Leopold benches and enjoyed the view. Even though they did not walk onto the Drumlin, they learned about the significance of the landscape and the rare prairie bush clover from the kiosk. In my opinion, the sign as a whole is a complement to the natural surroundings.

Natural Heritage Land Trust salutes Cary for her all-important service to our cause.



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.

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Local Conservation. Local Leaders.

Thank you to our President's Circle members.

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Remembering Emily Earley *continued from back page*

years of her life, mother lived in Madison. Although born in New York, Mother became a real Wisconsin person.

Martha: What did your mother study in graduate school?

Susie: Having lived through the Great Depression, mother was interested in labor economics. Mother received a master's degree in economics from the University of Wisconsin.

Martha: Did your mother work as an economist?

Susie: After the divorce, mother worked for several years at entry level jobs at the University of Wisconsin before she was recruited to be an editor for the newly formed Institute for Environmental Studies. This professional job augmented her early commitment to environmental work as a volunteer with The Sierra Club and The Nature Conservancy. Economics may have been the reason for her coming to Wisconsin, but her life took a turn and she never looked back. Over her lifetime, mother nurtured the cause of environmentalism and found her niche.

Martha: Why did your mother think that land management was important?

Susie: Mother believed that in order to preserve the wildness of the land, the land needed to be actively managed. When traveling in England, mother admired the centuries-old land ethic of the English people. She understood the natural cycles of the land, including the need for occasional burning of prairies. You could say mother's land ethic was: nature often needs to be nurtured.

Martha: Is it true that your mother enjoyed participating in prairie burns?

Susie: Yes. Mother found it thrilling to help with prairie burns. She liked danger. You can trace mother's love of adventure back to her childhood when she sailed in the big winds on Long Island Sound.

Martha: Did you inherit your mother's love of parks and natural places?

Susie: Yes, I think I did. My sister Dorothy, brother Jerry and I grew up playing on woodsy Sylvan Avenue (a dead-end street) and in Hoyt Park. Mother and I used to escape to various natural areas near our home and watch birds together. Unfortunately, I am near sighted and couldn't spot the birds too well. I believe that if you live in a city with parks, you are richer for it.

Martha: What motivated your mother to make a gift to Natural Heritage Land Trust in her will?

Susie: Mother believed in the mission of the Natural Heritage Land Trust, and she always liked Jim Welsh.

Emily Earley was such an amazing person that we can't fit her all in here. For the out-takes from the interview with Susie Earley, please go to <http://goo.gl/HuhMm>



Earth Day is Sunday, April 22

Please make a special contribution to support the Natural Heritage Land Trust. Your stewardship will help us continue the tradition of Earth Day.

\$750 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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Please fill out this form and return it to Natural Heritage Land Trust, 303 S. Paterson St., Suite 6, Madison, WI 53703.

If you prefer to donate online, go to www.nhlt.org. Contributions are tax-deductible as provided for by law.

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What's Inside

- Bird Walk at Louis' Bluff
- Headwaters of Anthony Branch Creek Protected
- Trewartha Bobolink Hill Farm Walk
- Jefferson County Farm Conserved
- Volunteer Cary Moon Reich



Conservation where you live

303 S Paterson St, Suite 6
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**YOU HAVE HELPED
PERMANENTLY PROTECT
7,706 ACRES OF CHERISHED
LOCAL LAND SINCE 1983**

Emily Earley and her daughter
Susie Earley on vacation in the
late 1990's in the Yucatan.



Remembering Emily Earley

June 30, 1916 – April 16, 2011

On April 16, 2011, Emily Earley, a leader in the environmental movement, died. She was short of 95 years old by 10 weeks. Throughout her life, Earley advocated for active land management in order to preserve the natural values of the land that could be lost without stewardship.

Emily Earley was involved with the Natural Heritage Land Trust for many years. She was a loyal contributing member from 1986 until 2010. She served on the board of directors from 1993 until 1999, and in 1998 Earley was Vice President-Stewardship. In 1995 she was given a Natural Heritage Land Trust Stewardship Award.

Mike Slavney, former Land Trust President, remembers Emily Earley as principled and fearless. "Emily understood the mission of the Land Trust. She made sure the organization did not sideslip. Emily was the keel for the board of directors." Jeanie Sieling, former Land Trust Board Member, remembers Emily Earley as "a passionate and feisty advocate for conservation. She had a wonderful way of being very direct about her principles of environmental protection. She was a great role model for all of us."

Emily Earley made a generous bequest to the Natural Heritage Land Trust to support our critically important work. The board and staff of Natural Heritage Land Trust are grateful for her generosity.

In February 2012, Emily Earley's daughter Susie Earley shared remembrances of her mother with Natural Heritage Land Trust Membership Director Martha Frey.

Martha: When did your mother move to Madison?

Susie: At age 21, in 1937, mother came to Madison from New York City for graduate school. Upon arriving in Madison, mother stayed at the Lorraine Hotel on West Washington Avenue. For over 70