

# CROSSCURRENTS

A NEWSLETTER TO SERVE THE LAND TRUST COMMUNITY OF WISCONSIN FALL 2001

## Land Trusts on the Move!

Some 15 years ago, a small group working with UW-Extension, organized a meeting in Madison on land trusts. At the conclusion, enthusiastic participants agreed that a statewide organization was needed to serve as a focal point for the emerging citizen interest in land trusts. Subsequently, a small group held a series of meetings out of which grew the Gathering Waters Conservancy.

Now in our seventh year, I am heartened with the increasing statewide interest in organizing trusts to conserve land. Gathering Waters' primary role is to nourish and support this interest with technical assistance, education, and information sharing. The results are gratifying. Today, statewide, some 45 trusts exist. Twenty years ago there were just a handful.

Our small three-person staff, part-time assistants and student interns are almost overwhelmed with work. In a typical month hundreds of emails, letters and phone calls are directed to the office. During the course of each year we hold 20 - 30 seminars, training and educational programs, and workshops. Some 500 participants attended last year. Staff make personal appearances at meetings throughout the state and are deeply involved in discussions with agency staffs and environmental organizations.

These demands reflect an increasing awareness that if Wisconsin's landscape beauty and diversity is to be protected, action by landowners and citizen groups is critical. Government agencies, from the town boards to federal agencies, cannot do the job without a strong base of citizen support—landowners and the general public working collectively with

them. Thanks to the state legislature and the DNR who recognize the value of partnerships with financial and technical assistance.

When I arrived in Wisconsin, more than 50 years ago, our population was 3.4 million. Since then, we have added another 2 million people. The economy in both rural and urban regions has changed dramatically. Unfortunately, much of this growth has had pervasive, continuing and pernicious impact on landscapes. All too often economic interests prevail over the well-being of the community.

I lament these losses. Some of the great beauty of Wisconsin has been seriously compromised, if not lost forever. Growth was inevitable; growth without planning was not inevitable. Now, as I look toward the next 50 years of this new century, I see encouraging signs that Wisconsin citizens are learning from past mistakes and are supporting new programs that deal with the inevitable new growth. Public support for land trusts is part of the larger public movement, and I am pleased that as a board member of Gathering Waters Conservancy I am a part of this exciting new awareness that indeed the great beautiful landscapes of Wisconsin are well worth protecting.

My suggestions to those who would make a commitment to conservation; get involved, join Gathering Waters Conservancy and a local land trust, serve as a volunteer board member, work with landowners and let elected officials know that trusts can be one significant element in land stewardship programs. ■

—Bud Jordahl

BRENT NICASTRO



Bud Jordahl is Gathering Waters Conservancy's new board president.

Public support for land trusts is part of the larger public movement, and I am pleased that as a board member of Gathering Waters Conservancy I am a part of this exciting new awareness that indeed the great beautiful landscapes of Wisconsin are well worth protecting.

—Bud Jordahl

**Gathering Waters**

**Conservancy's** mission is to help the people and communities of Wisconsin protect their land and water resources by strengthening the state's land trust movement. As a statewide coalition and service center for Wisconsin's growing land trust community, Gathering Waters' goals are to increase the professionalism and build the capacity of the state's private, non-profit conservation organizations through technical assistance, training and continuing education.

**CrossCurrents** is published by Gathering Waters Conservancy.

211 S. Paterson Street  
Suite 180  
Madison, WI 53703  
Phone: (608) 251-9131  
Fax: (608) 663-5971  
www.gatheringwaters.org

**Board of Directors**

Harold "Bud" Jordahl  
*President*  
Howard Mead  
*Vice-President*  
Shawn Miller  
*Treasurer*  
Joan Ziegler  
*Secretary*

Robert M. Bolz  
D.J. Freeman  
Julie Gallagher  
Chuck Haubrich  
Jean Meanwell  
Cynthia Olmstead  
Bryan Pierce  
Rudy Rasin  
Roger Rickard  
Clyde Samsel

William P. O'Connor  
*Legal Counsel*

**Staff**

Vicki Elkin  
*Executive Director*  
Jane de Broux  
*Director of Development & Communications*

**Volunteers & Interns**

Willy Hutcheson  
Ezra Meyer  
Harriet Riley

**Expanding Staffs Indicate Growth**

JOHN URBAN



On a recent trip up to Bayfield, I had a chance to spend some time with my good friend, Ruth Oppedahl. When I first started at Gathering Waters three and a half years ago, Ruth—then in her role as Executive Director of the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation—and I shared a tiny office at The Nature Conservancy in Madison. We've come a long way since then. Gathering Waters now has its own space on the city's East side, and Ruth has moved north, serving as the Executive Director of both the Bayfield Regional Conservancy and the Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve.

Ruth's sojourn to the Northland to work for these land trusts is indicative of the growth of the larger movement in Wisconsin. While land trusts have a rich history on the East Coast dating to the turn of the century, Wisconsin has been playing catch up. Two-thirds of Wisconsin's 45 land trusts have been established in the last decade.

Today, more than half of these groups have paid staff. Many, including the Door County Land Trust, Mississippi Valley Conservancy and Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, are hiring their second and third full time employees. While nothing can replace the hard work and enthusiasm of our many volunteers, these paid staffers can devote their full careers to protecting Wisconsin's special places.

Gathering Waters is growing too. We're in the process of hiring a new Program Director to replace Cristina Pratt (see story page 3), who played an invaluable role in the growth of Gathering Waters over the past two years. In addition we will be adding a Program Assistant to our staff by the end of the year. In the meantime, we continue to benefit from an able crew of interns and volunteers.

Thanks to all of you for your ongoing support of Gathering Waters and Wisconsin's 45 land trusts. ■

**Thank You!**

**Steve Braca** of Wingspread, for *Environmental Grantmaking Foundations*  
**Bonnie Cosgrove** for conference photos  
**Brent Nicaastro** for Bud Jordahl photo  
**Jeffrey Strobel** for the Site Conservation Planning workshop brochure design

**Event Sponsors:**  
*Gathering Waters Conservancy Annual Meeting*  
**Chris Goebel** and **Renae Prell-Mitchell** and the **Board of Directors of Geneva Lake Conservancy** for hosting  
**Bill & Maggie Gage** for the dinner cruise on the "Matriarch"  
**Bonnie & Owen Deutsch** for use of their home, the Bonnie Brae

**Forestry and Wildlife Training for Land Trusts**  
• DNR Forest Stewardship Program  
• UW Extension: Department of Forest Ecology and Management  
• Department of Wildlife Ecology

**Selection & Protection:**  
*A Site Conservation Planning Workshop for Land Trusts*  
• Land Trust Alliance Midwest Program  
• Riverland Conservancy  
• Alliant Energy Foundation  
• Steve J. Miller Foundation  
• Charles Stewart Mott Foundation  
• National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
• The Nature Conservancy Wisconsin Chapter

## Welcome New Board Members

### Chuck Haubrich, Racine

After 32 years as Operations Director Asia Pacific for S.C. Johnson, Chuck Haubrich retired in July 2001. In addition to his new role on Gathering Waters Board, he also serves on the Board of Directors of the Kenosha/Racine Land Trust and the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association Foundation as secretary. In 2000, he donated a conservation easement on 88 acres, the first in Racine County. Chuck looks forward to the added networking and learning from serving with Gathering Waters.

### Roger Rickard, Hayward

Roger Rickard is a retired human resources executive with the 3M Company. He currently lives in Hayward, where he is active with several volunteer activities, including Grindstone Lake Property Owners Association, for whom he serves on the Board of Directors. Roger is currently working to help establish a new land trust in the Hayward area. Hunting, fishing, woodworking and traveling with his wife, Judith, are favorite retirement activities.

## Goodbye and Thank You

Jean Meanwell will continue on Gathering Waters Conservancy's board, but has stepped down from her position as board president. Jean led GWC through a very productive time of tremendous growth and change. Thanks, Jean for your leadership and ongoing support!

Gathering Waters would also like to thank three outgoing members of the Board of Directors for their years of dedicated service. Shawn Miller, Tom Quinn, and Dan Trainer made important contributions to Gathering Waters Conservancy during their tenure and we greatly appreciate their hard work.

## Welcome

Willy Hutcheson has joined Gathering Waters Conservancy as an intern. This summer he completed several conservation easement monitoring visits, and has assisted in planning the upcoming training on site conservation planning.

Willy gained an early and vigorous passion for birds and the natural world while a young boy exploring his family's property in coastal South Carolina, his home state. After working in field ornithology and environmental education for several years, he decided to pursue a master's degree in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with a focus on private land conservation. He explores his new home state with his wife, Jecca.

## We'll Miss You



Former GWC Assistant Director, Cristina Pratt will be greatly missed, not only by GWC's board and staff, but by board and staff members of our sponsoring member

land trusts, and by many in the conservation community. As editor of *Currents* and co-planner of the successful 2001 "Community-based Conservation in Wisconsin" conference; and through many other trainings and services, Cristina played a major part in the growth of Gathering Waters.

She will be remembered for her fabulous home-cooked vegetarian meals at staff retreats and trainings, but most of all, Cristina made an impression with her heartfelt commitment to the land trust movement and her passion for conservation.

Best of luck, Cristina, and thank you for your important contributions to Wisconsin's land trust community. ■



Chuck Haubrich

Roger Rickard



Jean Meanwell

Willy Hutcheson

*After two incredible years with Gathering Waters and four years in Madison, I have decided to move to Seattle to be closer to family and friends. Thanks so much for all that you have taught me about land trusts and Wisconsin.*

—Cristina Pratt

Watch for details on these upcoming events in 2002

- Third Annual Retreat for Wisconsin Land Trust Staff, February 2002
- CLE Training for Appraisers and Attorneys, February/March 2002
- Board Development and/or Strategic Planning with Marc Smiley, April 2002
- Fundraising for Land Trusts, Summer 2002

## Free Forestry and Wildlife Training Weekend for Land Trust Volunteers Provides Valuable Information

Over the weekend of July 13-15, twenty-five hard-working land trust volunteers from all over Wisconsin traveled north to the UW's Kemp Research Station on Lake Tomahawk in Oneida County. They came together for a weekend of in-depth, hands-on training in forestry and wildlife issues with some of the best-known experts in each of these fields in the state.

From campfire discussions on deer and other wildlife with Scott Craven of UW-Madison (and Wisconsin Public Radio fame) to the "experiential" forestry field trip with Ron Eckstein,

DNR Wildlife Biologist, the weekend provided an excellent learning experience for everyone.

Comments from attendees following the training included: "wonderful event with lots of valuable information," "extremely informative," and it was very valuable and a great networking tool!"

Gathering Waters Conservancy collaborated with Mark Rickenbach of UW-Extension and his office staff to present the training. The entire weekend was free to land trust volunteers, due to the generosity of co-sponsors and supporters including: DNR Forest Stewardship Program; UW - Extension: Department of Forest Ecology and Management; and UW - Extension Department of Wildlife Ecology.

Training participants left the weekend with an armload of informational materials on everything from inventorying a property's wildlife species to the Managed Forest Law and Wisconsin's Forest Landowners' Grant Program. If you are lucky enough to know or work with of the people who attended, ask them to share the wealth of resources! ■

—Ezra Meyer



Scott Craven discusses deer and other wildlife around the campfire with training participants

## Women in Conservation – Regional Gatherings Announcement



Participants at the "Women in Conservation" breakfast at the "Celebrating Community-based Conservation" conference.

This past April, as part of the statewide conference "Celebrating Community-based Conservation in Wisconsin" sponsored by Gathering Waters Conservancy and the River Alliance of Wisconsin, over 100 women gathered to discuss ways to recognize and promote the role of women in conservation.

As follow-up to that very successful initial gathering, an informal network of women conservationists have organized a series of regional gatherings to take place throughout Wisconsin this fall. These events will provide an opportunity for women who are active or interested in the field of conservation to meet informally with their peers and begin to explore ways to enhance this growing network of Wisconsin women conservationists.

Regional meetings are still in the planning stages. Contact Jane de Broux at Gathering Waters Conservancy if you'd like more information at (608) 251-9131 or via email at [janedb@gatheringwaters.org](mailto:janedb@gatheringwaters.org).

## GWC to Present Site Conservation Planning Workshop



DOUG WOLFIN

Rob Sutter, conservation ecologist with The Nature Conservancy, will lead the two-and-a-half day workshop on Site Conservation Planning (SCP), using the Riverland Conservancy's 2,000-acre Merrimac Preserve as the focal case study.

This October 17-19 Gathering Waters, along with LTA/Midwest Program and the Riverland Conservancy, will host a training session designed to help land trusts adopt a proactive, strategic approach to protecting conservation lands.

Rob Sutter, conservation ecologist with The Nature Conservancy, will lead the two-and-a-half day workshop on Site Conservation Planning (SCP), using the Riverland Conservancy's 2,000-acre Merrimac Preserve as the focal case

study. Through a combination of presentations, group discussions, field observations, and planning exercises, participants will become familiar with the SCP methodology.

Site Conservation Planning begins with articulating key conservation goals or targets for a given site, which may include anything from the protection of rare species or unique ecological communities, to a desired condition or use for the landscape, such as open, forested, or undeveloped.

Next, planners consider the site's landscape context, identifying both on-site and off-site stresses and sources of stress that threaten the long-term viability of these. Stresses may include pollutants from a neighboring parcel, encroachment by invasive species, or inappropriate development within the watershed.

Ultimately, Site Conservation Planning results in the development of feasible strategies to achieve a land trust's site-specific conservation goals. Although the process was developed primarily for biological targets, land trusts interested in protecting scenic views, recreation areas, and historic features face many of the same issues and will find the "5-S" planning framework (Stresses, Sources, Strategies, Stakeholders, and Success) applicable to their work as well.

As the focus of conservation shifts to broader, landscape-scale efforts involving diverse stakeholders and multiple partnerships, it is important that land trusts are able to be effective partners and long-term stewards of the lands they protect. Gathering Waters hopes that strategic methods such as Site Conservation Planning will help Wisconsin land trusts continue to lead the way in this direction. ■

—Willy Hutcheson

## Selection and Protection: A Site Conservation Planning Workshop for Land Trusts

### Co-hosts:

- Land Trust Alliance - Midwest Program and Riverland Conservancy

### Supporters:

- Alliant Energy Foundation,
- Steve J. Miller Foundation
- Charles Stewart Mott Foundation,
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Jeffrey Strobel
- The Nature Conservancy

### When:

October 17 – 19, 2001

### Where:

Devil's Head Resort, Merrimac, Wisconsin

## Grandma Lucille

My Grandma Lucille loved birds. Her modest white house was filled with birds on china plates, bird towels, bird calendars and pencils with birds on the top. Outside, along with the native wildflowers she grew in her small back yard, she had bird baths and bird feeders.



Grandma Lucille birding at Itasca State Park in Minnesota.

She was a graceful woman with silver hair brushed back from her forehead in a soft wave. She wore silver cat-eye glasses and was partial to red chiffon scarves tied under her chin. She carefully drove a red car with fins on the back fenders.

When she took me out birding for the Christmas Bird count in 1973 she wore galoshes, (since we didn't really have winter boots back then) and a quilted nylon navy blue coat (and her red scarf). It must have been uncomfortable for her to be out in the winter at her age.

I remember trudging along edges of snowy cornfields in Marian, Iowa. It was early in the morning and very cold

and dark. I wonder now how that even happened—that a teenager would be out with her Grandma doing this—it seems unlikely, but I know it happened.

We diligently recorded sparrow and chickadees, woodpeckers and crows. We walked several miles breaking the trail, occasional brown furrows sur-

faced in the fields. To me it seemed aimless and dreary, and I guess I thought I was humoring her.

But the Christmas Bird Count was part of her religion. The Cedar Rapids Audubon Club was very serious about the count, and they would meet at the end of the day at Bishop's Buffet to compare notes and have a competitive "compilation" where the tallies for each species were called out in order, and

each little field team tried to outdo the others.

We headed down a hill to a wooded area near Bowman Woods. Here, the snow lay still on every branch. As we entered the woods I saw many-faceted hoarfrost crystals lit by the early morning golden sun. Steam rose from some dark open waters that were year 'round springs. The sun made its way over the horizon and illuminated the clearing. Gold finches and cardinals were flitting in and out of the clearing above the springs, calling, shaking off the cold and warming their bodies through activity.

Now, 27 years later, I remember it like the scene in Cinderella, where the

bluebirds swoop back and forth with the silk ribbons and fabric that magically make her gown. Above the springs, blue jays, goldfinches, rosy, red-breasted nuthatches and scores of other birds swooped and called. We stood there together, amazed at this implausible burst of life in the midst of a white and brown landscape. I will never forget it.

Though it is etched in my mind's eye forever, my Grandma Lucille and I never spoke about it. Perhaps it's the fate of stoic Norwegians. It's funny that I don't remember talking about birding much at all. And yet, that is my entire memory of her. What she shared with me on those winter bird counts was her companionship and a sense of love for nature.

Later, as she drifted into Alzheimer's and I pursued biology in college, I like to think that she enjoyed knowing that I was studying science, but I don't know for sure. Her time spent with me formed my character and my love for birds. As much as I (later) resisted those early morning bird field trips, I now find that I have come full circle to the love of birds that she first introduced to me.

*“Now, every time I hear a hermit thrush, or a veery on an early summer evening, or I see a hoary redpoll on a snowy Iowa field, I think of my Grandma Lucille, and the wonderful gift she gave me—the love of nature.”*

This story was written for the “Women in Conservation Breakfast” at the “Celebrating Community-based Conservation” statewide conference, April 20-22, 2001.

Ruth Oppedahl shared her inspirational story of a mentoring experience from the generations that have come before us. One goal of the “Women in Conservation Breakfast” was to provide examples of the inspiring woman conservationists who have led the way for us today. We share it here in the hopes that it will motivate our readers to continue a line of mentorship among generations in the conservation field.



Ruth Oppedahl is Executive Director of the Bayfield Regional Conservancy and the Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve .

Gary Nabhan, in his book “The Geography of Childhood,” says it just takes one adult to spend time with a child to help develop a love and appreciation for nature.

Now, every time I hear a hermit thrush, or a veery on an early summer evening, or I see a hoary redpoll on a snowy Iowa field, I think of my Grandma Lucille, and the wonderful gift she gave me—the love of nature. ■  
—Ruth Oppedahl

## Stewardship Fund Increase a Victory for Conservation in Wisconsin

Thank you to everyone who called their legislators and Governor McCallum to voice their support for the Stewardship Fund increase.

Gathering Waters Conservancy has had a productive and successful year at the state Capitol. We achieved our top legislative priority—boosting the state Stewardship Fund from \$46 million to \$60 million a year. As a result, over the next eight years, an additional 50,000 acres of land will be protected and set aside for the public to enjoy.

Through the Stewardship fund, the state protects land for public outdoor recreation and wildlife habitat and provides matching grants to land trusts and local governments to do the same. Because of the Stewardship Fund, thousands of acres have been protected at places like the Lower Wisconsin Riverway, the Ice Age Trail and the Kettle Moraine Forest.

“This increase means that parks can be expanded, more trails can be built, families will find it easier to find an open camp site, hunters will find more opportunities and more elbow room, and more natural areas will be protect-

ed,” said Dave Cieslewicz, Executive Director of 1000 Friends of Wisconsin.

It also means more money for matching grants to local governments and Wisconsin’s 45 private land trusts.

“During the first ten years of the program, Stewardship leveraged more than \$50 million from private groups and local governments through matching grants,” said Jordy Jordahl, Government Relations Director for the Wisconsin Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. “The increase will leverage even more support from the private sector and will help local communities protect the places that are special to them.”

Thank you to everyone who called their legislators and Governor McCallum to voice their support for the Stewardship Fund increase. Thank you also to Gathering Waters’ partners, The Nature Conservancy and 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, for joining us in this effort. ■

—Vicki Elkin

## Progress Made on Tax Credit for Land Conservation

Gathering Waters Conservancy also made significant progress in our efforts to create a state income tax credit for landowners who donate land or conservation easements to a non-profit land trust, local government or government agency. Under the proposal, a donor could receive up to a \$100,000 tax credit against his or her state income taxes. The credit could be carried forward up to 10 years so that landowners could maximize their tax savings.

Joining forces with The Nature Conservancy, Gathering Waters succeeded in getting the tax credit included in the Assembly’s version of the state budget. Unfortunately, the proposal was not included in the final budget. One of our allies in the Assembly, Rep. DuWayne Johnsrud (R-Eastman) has indicated that he will introduce the tax credit as freestanding legislation. Gathering Waters will continue to promote the tax credit proposal, which enjoys widespread, bipartisan support in the legislature. ■

—Vicki Elkin

## Conservation Easement and Property Tax Survey Results

Gathering Waters Conservancy conducted a survey this past spring to determine the effects of conservation easements on property taxes and assessed values in Wisconsin. A total of 109 surveys to conservation easement landowners around the state were sent out, and we received 58 responses for an impressive 53% rate of return.

### Key findings from the survey

Nearly one third (29%) of the easements do not allow any development on those properties, while 71% of the easements contain provisions for building one or more homes. The 59 home sites permitted under the easements pale in comparison to the hundreds of potential homes that may otherwise have been built if the land had not been protected.

### The effects of conservation easements on assessed values

Although Wisconsin Statutes Section 70.32 requires a local assessor to “consider the effect [of a conservation easement] on the value of a property,” less than one third of survey respondents saw a decrease in their assessed values after granting a conservation easement. Just under 19% reported no change in their assessed values following the donation of an easement.

Six landowners—just over 10% of the total—experienced an increase in their assessed values. Twenty-four respondents (41%) left this question blank, indicating either that their property had not been reassessed since the easement donation, or they were unsure whether the property had been reassessed.

### Assessor awareness and “consideration” for conservation easements

While 60% of respondents believed their local assessor was aware of the conser-

vation easement on their property, only 28% believe that their assessor considered the effect of the easement on their property’s value. Thirty-one percent believe that their assessor did not consider the effect of the easement.

### Conclusions

The survey clearly confirms the anecdotal evidence GWC has received over the years that Wisconsin landowners do not necessarily see reductions in the assessed valuation of their properties following the donation of a conservation easement.

In their responses to our survey, the majority of landowners (76%) indicated that potential property tax benefits had little or no influence on their decision to donate an easement. Many respondents indicated in their comments that they knew a property tax reduction was not guaranteed. However, 86% of respondents believe that an easement should affect the assessed value of a protected property.

### Gathering Waters addresses the problem

GWC is developing workshops and other outreach programs aimed at educating assessors about conservation easements, and is lobbying the state legislature to adopt tax incentives for conservation easement donors (see page 8). We also plan on working with the Department of Revenue to address in this issue.

For a final report on the survey, please contact Gathering Waters Conservancy at (608) 251-9131 or by email at [elkin@gatheringwaters.org](mailto:elkin@gatheringwaters.org).

—Ezra Meyer

Gathering Waters’ survey of conservation easement landowners clearly confirms the anecdotal evidence we have received over the years that Wisconsin landowners do not necessarily see reductions in the assessed valuation of their properties following the donation of a conservation easement.

## The Protected Land

- Fifty-eight landowners owning 5,788 protected acres responded
- Average parcel size is 102 acres
- Largest parcel is 500
- Forty-seven percent of the land is forested
- Twenty-six percent of the land is farmland
- Remaining land is wetlands, prairie, and lake and river frontage

# "Celebrating Community-based Conservation in Wisconsin" Conference Highlights

The 2001 "Celebrating Community-based Conservation in Wisconsin" conference, held in Oshkosh this past April, was a huge success. Nearly 300 conservationists from across the state of Wisconsin attended the conference cohosted by the River Alliance of Wisconsin. The quotes given here are compiled from conference evaluations.



Participants on the "Lake Sturgeon Spawning Runs/Wild Rose Fish Hatchery" field trip.



Vicki Elkin and Todd Ambs of the River Alliance talk with DNR Secretary, Darrell Bazzell.



"Environmental History as an Outreach Tool: The Fox/Wolf Rivers Project" was a popular and well-reviewed session.



Members of the Legislative Panel discussion, from left to right: DNR Secretary Darrell Bazzell, State Sen. Jim Baumgart (D), State Sen. Robert Cowles (R), State Rep. Scott Gunderson (R), and State Rep. Julie Lassa (D).



Senator Gaylord Nelson with the GWC staff at the EAA Museum dinner.

"The networking was excellent—will be getting assistance from some participants, have benefited from suggestions, and am providing contacts and documents to other participants."



"I really enjoyed the synergy between the two organizations—it helps us remember the whole picture."

"Excellent, essential concept. Good ideas."



"The field trip on the 'Archaeological Wonders of Central Wisconsin' opened wonders right in my back yard! Each presenter was knowledgeable and passionate on the subject and I can't wait to learn more!"

Field trip participants learn about the "Archaeological Wonders of Central Wisconsin."



GWC legal counsel, Bill O'Connor, discussed the issues with Wisconsin State Senator, Robert Cowles.



Conference participants, Steve Seyfert and Renee Kivikko network at dinner.

"The dinner with Gaylord Nelson was a 'watershed event' for me—critical emotional connection to conservation."

## Ways of Giving to Gathering Waters

■ Individuals may avoid paying capital gains taxes by donating appreciated stocks and bonds to Gathering Waters. Donors are entitled to a charitable income tax deduction equal to the full market value of the stock.

■ Individuals may also leave a bequest to Gathering Waters. A bequest is a gift made through a donor's will and is completely free from federal estate tax.

■ Frequent Flyer Miles may be transferred to Gathering Waters and used to send staff to training events.



## Yes, I want to help land trusts & landowners protect Wisconsin's land and water resources by joining Gathering Waters!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Please sign me up as a:***

- \$35 - 49      Forest Protector
- \$50 - 99      Creek Watcher
- \$100 - 249      Land Defender
- \$250 - 499      Prairie Keeper
- \$500 or more      Harbor Sentinel
- \_\_\_\_\_      Other

Please keep my donation anonymous.

### ***Send form and tax-deductible donation to:***

**Gathering Waters Conservancy**  
211 S. Paterson St., Suite 180  
Madison, WI 53703

- Please send information about how to volunteer.
- Please send information on protecting my land.
- Please send me information about how to include Gathering Waters in my will.

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. postage  
PAID  
Madison, WI  
Permit No. 669

**CROSSCURRENTS**

Gathering Waters Conservancy  
211 S. Paterson St., Suite 180  
Madison, WI 53703