

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund Saved!

After an attempt by the State Assembly to cut \$238 million from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund, the Budget Conference Committee restored funding to \$60 million per year. We would like to thank our State Legislators who worked to re-establish this funding, specifically conference committee members, Senators Chuck Chvala, Russell Decker, and Robert Jauch and Representative Spencer Black. We also appreciate the efforts of the land trust community. Many of you took the time to express your support for this critical program. The Stewardship Fund could not have been saved without your hard work! Each year, over 20,000 acres of land are

Non-profit conservation organizations who have received Stewardship Grants in the past year

- American Farmland Trust
- The Archaeological Society
- Bayfield Regional Conservancy
- Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center
- Deer Lake Conservancy
- The Friends of Pheasant Branch
- Madison Audubon Society
- Mississippi Valley Conservancy
- Natural Heritage Land Trust
- The Nature Conservancy
- Ozaukee Washington Land Trust
- Pheasants Forever
- The Prairie Enthusiasts
- Waukesha Land Conservancy
- Wisconsin Farmland Conservancy
- Woodland Dunes Nature Center



The Peterson property, now "Big Ravine Park" in Bayfield, Wisconsin. Stewardship Funds were used to acquire this property.

protected by Stewardship funds. Local governments and private, non-profit organizations, like land trusts, have increased their ability to protect land by using the 50% matching grants available from the Stewardship Fund. Land trusts are responsible for raising the other 50%. From 1990 to 2000, non-profit conservation organizations were able to protect over 11,500 acres using these grants. Stewardship monies have helped land trusts protect nearly 5,300 acres in the past two years alone. Sixteen private, non-profit organizations have received grants in the past year. A few examples include:

- \$7,500 to restore 200 acres at the Iowa County Farm Prairie
- \$52,500 to acquire one of the largest collections of springs feeding into Token Creek
- \$180,495 to acquire a Chinkapin Oak savanna along the Mississippi Bluffs
- \$603,000 to acquire blufflands in Door County

— Beth Bier, Program Assistant

Profile of Recent Stewardship Grant

In June of 2002, The Bayfield Regional Conservancy purchased 35 acres in the Town of Bayfield with 50% funding assistance from the Stewardship Program. The property is adjacent to 120 acres of protected land owned by the City of Bayfield and includes a large, steep ravine that drains into Lake Superior. The two properties will be managed together as "Big Ravine Park" and will offer recreational benefits such as hiking, bird watching, cross-county skiing and snow shoeing. A developer who wished to subdivide the land and build a number of vacation homes along the ravine had approached the previous landowners. The landowners, however, decided to work with the Bayfield Regional Conservancy instead and preserve their land.

— Laura Guyer, Department of Natural Resources

In Land We Trust

JOHN URBAN



My career in community-based conservation began not in Wisconsin but thousands of miles away in Latin America. In 1989, I found myself in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic working for the Inter-American Foundation. At about the same time, land trusts in Wisconsin were coming together to form Gathering Waters Conservancy.

The job with the Inter-American Foundation was so rewarding, I thought I'd never find anything else like it. Formed in the 1960s, the foundation supports grassroots development and community organizations throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Our ultimate aim was to give people the tools, skills and resources to be active participants in shaping the future of their communities.

Today, I do much of the same type of work as the executive director of Gathering Waters Conservancy. The context and climate are different, but our ultimate objectives are similar, and the work is equally rewarding.

As the statewide service center for Wisconsin's 45 land trusts, Gathering Waters provides the resources, support, tools, and information land trusts need to permanently protect the lands that define and sustain their communities. Like the Inter-American Foundation, Gathering Waters encourages and empowers people, acting collectively, to shape the future of their communities through voluntary action.

Land trusts are officially defined as private, non-profit conservation organizations that protect land in perpetuity by purchasing or accepting donations of land or conservation easements from private landowners. But land trusts do much more than protect individual parcels of land. At a time when development pressures and urban sprawl affect almost every community in the country, land trusts provide a mechanism for community members, working in partnership with private landowners, to ensure that the places they love—places that make their communities home—will endure and survive.

Nationwide, these private, citizen-run organizations have protected 6.47 million acres of land. In Wisconsin, where the movement is relatively young, land trusts have protected an impressive 100,000 acres. They also rely on thousands of volunteers, members and supporters to get their work done.

Wisconsin's land trusts face many of the same challenges as the groups I worked with in Latin America: how to attract effective board members? how to raise funds for operations? how to build community support for programs? These are the hurdles that face most non-profit organizations. Land trusts face additional challenges given their responsibility to complete complex land transactions and ensure that lands are protected in perpetuity. Gathering Waters makes the often difficult and complicated process of starting and running a non-profit organization and negotiating land deals easier and less daunting.

At Gathering Waters we invest in community-based conservation. We invest our time, resources, energies, and hopes in the people and organizations that have the vision to preserve what they love about Wisconsin today so that it can be enjoyed tomorrow. We are confident that our investments will pay off. ■

—Vicki Elkin, Executive Director

This article is excerpted from the Spring 2002 edition of Wisconsin Academy Review as part of a special feature on community-based conservation.

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.

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Karl Hassrick
Willy Hutcheson

Thank You and Goodbye

Gathering Waters Conservancy would like to thank two retiring board members, **Jean Meanwell** and **Clyde Samsel**, for their outstanding service to Gathering Waters.

Jean, a founding member and past-President of Gathering Waters, has been actively involved in land trusts since she joined the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation in 1984. Jean led Gathering Waters through a period of tremendous growth and success. We will miss her leadership, dedication, and wonderful stories of travel overseas!

Clyde also dedicated countless hours to Gathering Waters and helped us develop key relationships with woodland owners through his work with Wisconsin Family Forests (WFF). WFF is a grassroots, community-based organization that promotes sustainable forestry among private forest owners. Clyde helped found WFF, and we are confident that we will continue to work with him to permanently protect Wisconsin's forestlands.

Best wishes as well to **Jane de Broux**, who served as Gathering Waters' first Director of Development and Communications. Jane did an outstanding job of raising the profile of Gathering Waters and increasing and diversifying our funding base. Jane left Gathering Waters earlier this year to pursue her life-long dream of attending graduate school and getting an advanced degree.

We will miss Jean, Clyde and Jane, and wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors. ■

Welcome New Staff!

Karen Bassler joined Gathering Waters as the *Program Director* in October 2001. As Program Director, Karen manages and implements Gathering Waters' programs and services such as organizing conferences and workshops, providing one-on-one training, assistance and mentoring to land trusts, and designing new programs to build land trust capacity. Previously, Karen worked for four years at the Wisconsin Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

Beth Bier joined Gathering Waters Conservancy in February of 2002 as the *Program Assistant*. In addition to general administrative duties, she is working on the Land Trust Policy Network and editing *Crosscurrents*. Prior to joining GWC, Beth worked at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Phil Kerckhoff joins the staff of Gathering Waters as our new *Director of Development and Communications*. Phil brings nearly 20 years of non profit experience in all aspects of organizational development. When he's not hard at work, Phil can usually be found playing outside, often on his farm near Spring Green.

David Clutter is currently Gathering Waters' *Project Coordinator* for the Lake Michigan Shoreland Initiative and facilitates contacts between land owners and land trust organizations. He is currently pursuing his Master's Degree through the University of Wisconsin's Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. During his downtime, David enjoys birding, playing the piano, reading good fictional works, and staring endlessly into clear lake and river waters.

Karl Hassrick is a graduate student in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Gathering Waters *volunteer*. He has worked as an information technology manager and consultant in the private and public sectors. In his spare time he enjoys fishing, hiking, bird watching, and international travel. ■



Gathering Waters Conservancy staff: Karen Bassler, Jocelyn Gretz, Beth Bier, Vicki Elkin. In front: Willy Hutcheson



Phil Kerckhoff



David Clutter



Karl Hassrick

New Address

Gathering Waters has moved upstairs in our building. Our new address is:
211 S. Paterson
Suite 270
Madison, WI 53703

Upgraded Website!

Karl Hassrick, one of our terrific volunteers, has spent many hours updating the Gathering Waters web site. Please check it out at www.gatheringwaters.org. New additions include Gathering Waters' annual report and a calendar of events for land trusts. Please send us your activities to add to the list!

GWC Upcoming Events

Major Donor Development Workshop

Gathering Waters will be holding workshops on fundraising for land trusts this November in Eau Claire and Fond du Lac. This training will focus on major donor recruitment and cultivation. David Allen of the Sand County Foundation, and the former Development Director for the Wisconsin chapter of The Nature Conservancy, will lead these interactive, day-long workshops. GWC will work with David on follow-up activities with workshop participants, including conference calls to discuss progress. Look for more information and a registration form in early October.

- November 7, 2002 Holiday Inn, Fond du Lac, WI
- November 14, 2002 Holiday Inn & Convention Center, Eau Claire, WI

Supported by The Cavaliere Foundation and the Steve J. Miller Foundation

Pictured from left to right: Barb Vass of the Kenosha Racine Land Trust, Mike Sorenson of the Sheboygan Area Land Conservancy, Peg Kohring of The Conservation Fund, Charles Erven of the Kenosha Racine Land Trust, Steve Seyfert of the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, Milly Rugland of the Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust and Ellen Gennrich of the Waukesha Land Conservancy participate in a discussion during the June Western Lake Michigan Alliance meeting in Manitowoc.



What's New

Western Lake Michigan Land Trust Collaboration Underway

Gathering Waters Conservancy is embarking on an exciting new project to develop and facilitate a collaboration of land trusts within Wisconsin's Lake Michigan basin. This new initiative promotes both local and regional conservation values while encouraging land trusts to work together around a shared conservation vision.

This type of collaborative model provides unique opportunities to create a broad, regional conservation vision, share and exchange valuable information and knowledge, and access funds to build land trust capacity.

The threat to terrestrial and aquatic systems and, ultimately, our quality of life, increases as population and urban sprawl continue to grow. Land trusts in Wisconsin, and indeed around the country, understand the need to come together to resolve larger, regional threats. Gathering Waters is proud to be among the nation's leaders in fostering these efforts.

—David Clutter, Project Coordinator

Updated Landowner Information Sheets

Gathering Waters has updated landowner information sheets available for land trusts and landowners. Please contact us if you are interested in obtaining copies. The sheets include:

- Information on GWC
- Information on land trusts in WI
- Conservation easements
- Conservation options available to landowners
- Tax benefits of conserving land

Gathering Waters Helps Land Trusts Address Organizational Needs

Gathering Waters has been working one-on-one with individual land trusts to help them prioritize their needs and strengthen their organizations.

In April 2002, Marc Smiley, a nationally known land trust consultant, spent two and half weeks working with eleven land trusts in Wisconsin. Gathering Waters was able to subsidize his time with these groups through two generous grants from the Alliant Energy Foundation and the Madison-based Cavaliere Foundation.

Marc worked with the land trusts on issues such as Board development, hiring staff, strategic planning and program development. Gathering Waters staff has continued to work with many of the eleven groups to facilitate the follow-up actions recommended by Marc, including strategic planning and organizational needs assessments.

Gathering Waters also contracted with the Institute for Conservation Leadership (ICL) to conduct a needs assessment with the Door County Land Trust in April, using ICL's Benchmarking Workbook. Since then, Gathering Waters has used a modified version of the Benchmarking Workbook, with new questions directly relevant to issues specific to land trusts, to conduct needs assessments with several other groups.

The needs assessments have been funded by The Cavaliere Foundation and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD). MMSD has an interest in partnering with Milwaukee area land trusts as part of its Conservation Plan. The ultimate goal of MMSD's Conservation Plan is to protect critical undeveloped lands to reduce the risk of future flooding in the Menomonee River, Oak Creek and Root River watersheds. Land trusts may be potential long-term holders of these lands. ■

—Karen Bassler, Program Director

Staff Retreat

In February, 2002, 21 staff members from 15 land trusts met at the Wisconsin Lions Camp in Rosholt, WI for two days of discussion and networking at Gathering Waters' third annual Land Trust Staff Retreat.

The retreat focused on managing organizational change, including the addition of staff, changes in the role of the Executive Director and changing missions. Will Murray from Conservation Impact lead discussions on the stages of organizational growth and how land trusts can prepare for organizational change.

There was time at the retreat for updates from participants about their organizational programs and accomplishments, discussion of the impact the changed economy has had on fundraising, and an overview of Gathering Waters' strategic plan update.

In addition, several people brought guitars and other instruments and we spent a wonderful evening singing in front of the fireplace. As one participant noted, "the greatest benefit of the retreat is communicating with peers." ■

Terrie Cooper of the Door County Land Trust (left) and Ruth Oppedahl of the Bayfield Regional Conservancy (right) provide entertainment at the Land Trust Staff Retreat.



Public Speaking Workshop

Daniel Mortensen, Professor of Communication Arts at Edgewood College, donated his teaching time to lead a half-day workshop on "Public Speaking with Confidence." Eleven staff and Board members from five land trusts attended.

Participants were given tips on conveying confidence and clarity in public speaking. They also worked through several practice exercises to become more comfortable speaking in front of an audience. The workshop "was presented in a laid-back, comfortable manner which really seemed to put everyone at ease." Mr. Mortensen plans future workshops focusing on specific public speaking situations, including fundraising events. Thank you for a successful afternoon!

Living Their Conservation Ethics: Landowners Share Their Stories

I am at an interesting stage in life: after sixteen years of education, ending this past May with a commencement ceremony at UW-Madison, I ponder the health of our world and how I can better it.



Jocelyn Gretz

I suppose I should be in my most idealistic state right now, but with classes entitled “Extinction of Species,” one cannot help but wonder how one individual can change what humans are doing to our planet and the animals we share it with. Enter: Gathering Waters Conservancy.

I have been given the unique opportunity to do what is seldom done anymore in this day and age: read letters. I initiated a project of collecting the “stories” of landowners in Wisconsin that have worked with land trusts to preserve their land. The feedback has been great; we have received responses from over 20 landowners, representing 12 land trusts throughout the state of Wisconsin.

The stories and advice from the landowners will be published and will compliment the technical information that is currently available to landowners considering a conservation easement. The suggestions, advice and experiences of other people that have “taken the leap” into this realm of conservation will help others make the same decision. Here are some highlights:

“We both feel that saving this land through the conservation easement is the most important thing we have done in our lifetime. Knowing that additional buildings cannot be crammed onto this wonderful piece of land is most reassuring. Prior to the easement, I had nightmares of houses in my “front yard” after I died! At least we’ve been able to insure

that this will not happen as long as civilization exists”

Reine Wells and Dean Herriges

12-acre easement

Waukesha Land Conservancy

“For thousands of years people lived and hunted and walked and dreamed on this place we call ours. They understood, I think, the power of land to keep us and the ways in which land is passive, dependent on stewardship. As much for them as for future generations we decided on a conservation easement.”

Maureen Ash and Richard Purdy

195-acre easement

Kinnickinnic Land Trust

“At the end of the day you go to sleep knowing that all of your hard work will be protected and that you really have made a difference.”

Cheryl and Mark Brickman

15-acre conservation easement

Ozaukee-Washington Land Trust

Deane Herriges and Reine Wells on the day they donated their easement to the Waukesha Land Conservancy.





Norb Schmitz on his land in the Baraboo Hills.

“It is disturbing to see condo complexes overrunning what were once beautiful hillsides of endless orchards or natural woodlands. It is sad to see old people who have lived here for generations having to sell off their homesteads because they can no longer afford to live here, to see habitat being destroyed threatening numerous species of flora and fauna. I wish I could do more. I’m glad I have been able to do something.”

Bob McCurdy

32-acre easement

Door County Land Trust

In addition to receiving mail, I also met with landowners Norb and Ruth Schmitz. We spent the day looking at their property in the Baraboo Hills, talking about where their conservation ethic originated and about the history of their land. One of the more interesting reasons they gave me for deciding to put a con-

servation easement on their land was so that their children would not have to decide/argue over what should be done with it after they had passed away.

As Norb modestly described their role in the establishment of the Baraboo Range Preservation Association and their generous contribution to the Aldo Leopold Foundation that saved Potter’s Woods, I realized I was talking to some of the first leaders of private land conservation in Wisconsin.

Sharing our thoughts on the natural world and human’s role in it, I found that I had more in common with these two friends, 60 years my elder, than I do with many of my peers at the University. My time with Norb and Ruth and the letters that I have received have made me realize that although we all may not know each other, landowners and land trust employees are all connected in that we all share a conservation ethic and are willing to work for it.

At this transitory period in my life I have learned that one cannot save the world, but one can commit their conservation ethic to their every day lives. Landowners that work with land trusts to conserve their land clearly “walk the talk.”

As problems in this world seem to escalate, it has been refreshing to read the stories from people that are on the forefront of conservation right here in Wisconsin. Together, Wisconsin’s land trusts and landowners have worked together to protect over 100,000 acres! This positive change has happened one easement at a time. I would like to thank the landowners who have contributed to this project; your stories and advice will undoubtedly help advance conservation efforts in Wisconsin.

—*Jocelyn Gretz, Gathering Waters Intern*

Thank You Jocelyn!

Jocelyn Gretz is a recent graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a degree Conservation Biology and Environmental Studies. She spent the summer as an intern in Geneva, Switzerland for the non-profit organization, “International Human Rights Consortium.” Jocelyn was a terrific intern for Gathering Waters this past spring. We appreciate her initiative in tackling the “In Their Own Words” project. The full publication will be available this fall. We wish her the best!

Gathering Waters Conservancy Plans for the Future

Gathering Waters Conservancy is proud to share its new strategic plan with our friends and supporters. The plan, which will guide our activities through 2005, builds on Gathering Waters Conservancy's strengths and past accomplishments and will help us better meet the challenges and opportunities facing Wisconsin's growing land trust community.

Gathering Waters Conservancy's strategic plan includes short-term goals and strategies to help us reach our long-term vision for land trusts and land conservation in Wisconsin.

Our vision is as follows. Land trusts will be a household word and all Wisconsin landowners will understand how land trusts can help them preserve their family lands. Local or regional land trusts will exist in every corner of the state, and these land trusts will be strong, stable and effective organizations that are seen as institutions integral to the health

and well-being of their communities. Land conservation will be at the top of the public's agenda, and landowners, community members, public officials and other decision makers will regularly turn to land trusts for leadership and guidance.

Gathering Waters' strategic plan outlines the steps we will take over the next three years to achieve this vision.

Under the plan, we will provide land trusts with the financial resources, skills, information and know-how to proactively and strategically protect high-quality lands. We will help them strengthen their financial base and access new sources of funding to purchase land and easements, and we'll continue our work of building alliances between land trusts and other potential partners so that their efforts will have a greater impact. We will also increase the visibility of land

trusts statewide and advocate for land trusts at the state and national levels. Finally, Gathering Waters will provide the leadership, vision and creative thinking to identify new and innovative ways to achieve our land conservation goals.

Some of our specific initiatives include:

- Providing more one-on-one, direct assistance to land trusts and helping them prioritize their needs by working with them on an organizational assessment process. Based on the outcomes of these assessments, Gathering Waters will provide tailored assistance, professional consultation, and training.

- Facilitating and fostering partnerships and collaborations among land trusts, similar to the Blufflands Alliance and the emerging alliance of land trusts along Lake Michigan. Under these types of partnerships, land trusts can protect land on a larger, regional scale, reduce duplication of efforts, exchange information, share expertise and access funding that no one organization could access on its own.

- Increasing land trusts purchasing power and fundraising ability by helping them design and implement fundraising plans; providing challenge grants to boost land trusts' membership; encouraging and supporting joint grant proposals among two or more land trusts; and setting up a statewide conservation buyer program.

- Directing more public funding to land trusts, especially through federal programs, such as the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Farmland Protection Program (FPP) and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). Gathering Waters will track these programs, work with appropriate agencies to ensure that they are favorable to land trusts and landowners in Wisconsin, and help land trusts apply for funding.

- Becoming a stronger voice at the



(Left to right): Joan Ziegler, Bryan Pierce and Tracy Kuczynski provide input during GWC's Strategic Planning Retreat.

state and national levels for policies that promote land trusts and private land conservation. Along with ensuring that existing conservation programs remain intact, Gathering Waters will promote new initiatives, such as additional tax incentives to donate or sell land and easements for conservation purposes. A critical part of our strategy will be to involve local land trusts in educating decision makers about their work.

These are just some of the highlights of our strategic plan. We would be happy

to share a complete copy with you later this fall.

A final thanks to everyone who contributed to our strategic planning process! We received over 75 responses to a questionnaire we circulated last spring and had several of our partners participate in a two-day planning retreat facilitated by Marc Smiley. Your thoughts, suggestions and feedback have been invaluable in developing the plan. ■

—Vicki Elkin, Executive Director

Watch for details on these upcoming events in 2003

- 4th Annual Retreat for Wisconsin Land Trust Staff in February 2003
- Attorney training on preserving family lands through conservation easements and estate planning in January 2003
- Leadership workshop for board members and volunteers
- Wisconsin Land Trust Conference

Gathering Waters Conservancy's Strategic Goals for 2003 - 2005

Land Trust Support

- Ensure that every conservation-minded landowner in Wisconsin has access to a local or regional land trust.
- Continue to increase the quality, professionalism and effectiveness of Wisconsin's land trusts through training, one-on-one mentoring, technical assistance, and education.
- Encourage Wisconsin's land trusts to be proactive and strategic in their land protection activities and prepare them for the long-term responsibilities of owning land and holding conservation efforts.
- Help land trusts leverage their efforts by participating in larger conservation plans and collaborating with other conservation organizations as well as local units of government and public agencies.

Education and Outreach

- Raise the general public's awareness of Gathering Waters Conservancy and the critical role land trusts play in protecting Wisconsin's natural resources and open spaces.
- Educate Wisconsin land owners and the professionals who advise them about land trusts and the voluntary land conservation options that are available to them.

Public Policy and Government Relations

- Educate decision makers and encourage public policies at all levels of government that promote and support land trusts and private land conservation.
- Ensure that existing funding programs for land conservation are maintained at current levels and increase with time, and promote new funding mechanisms and incentives for land conservation.
- Help land trusts take full advantage of existing funding programs for land and easements and work with appropriate agencies to ensure that these programs are favorable to land trusts and landowners in Wisconsin.

Thank You!

Thank you to those who generously gave their time to speak at the *Preserving Our Heritage* workshop.

- **Don Reed**
*Chief Biologist,
Southeastern
Wisconsin Regional
Planning Commission*
- **Ken LePine**
*Director, Dane
County Parks*
- **Tom Woiwode**
*Director, Greenways
Initiative – Community
Foundation for
Southeastern Michigan*
- **Nick Lelack**
*Planning Director,
1000 Friends of
Wisconsin*

Event Sponsors for *Preserving Our Heritage: Implementing the Natural Areas and Critical Wildlife Habitat Areas Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin*

- The Johnson
Foundation
- The EPA Great Lakes
National Program
Office
- Southeastern
Wisconsin Regional
Planning
Commission
- Wisconsin
Department of
Natural Resources
- The Ziegler
Foundation
- 1000 Friends of
Wisconsin

Update on the Farm Bill

Wisconsin land trusts and landowners stand to benefit from the new farm bill. The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 was signed into law by President Bush on May 13. The act increases mandatory spending for conservation by 80 percent, providing \$12.9 billion in new spending over the next six years. It provides \$597 million for the Farmland Protection Program (FPP) over the next six years, an increase from the \$53 million spent in the previous six years. Under FPP, land trusts and local units of government can receive matching grants to purchase development rights on prime farm land directly. The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) will be funded at \$360 million over the next six years under the farm bill. Acreage caps for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) are increased to 39.2 million acres and 2.275 million acres. The bill includes a two million acre, \$254 million Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) designed to protect and restore native grasslands and prairies. The new Farm Bill permanently authorizes the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program which helps improve the capability of state, tribal and local units of government and local nonprofit organizations in rural areas to plan, develop and carry out programs for natural resources conservation and development. ■

—Beth Bier, Program Assistant
*Summary information provided by National
Association of Conservation Districts and
the Land Trust Alliance.*

Policy Network Forming

Gathering Waters will be starting a new Land Trust Policy Network this fall. The purpose of this network is to keep land trusts informed of policy items and how they will be affected, increase Legislator awareness of land trusts and collect ideas for potential policy initiatives. We are hoping for representation from each land trust for Gathering Waters' network. Please contact our office if you would like to be part of the policy network. ■

Workshops on Preserving Southeast Wisconsin's Natural Areas a Success!

Gathering Waters Conservancy hosted *Preserving Our Heritage: Implementing the Natural Areas and Critical Wildlife Habitat Areas Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin* workshops on June 11 and 12, 2002. These workshops were designed to bring together local units of government, state agencies, land trusts, and other private conservation organizations to discuss ways to implement SEWRPC's Natural Areas Plan for Southeast Wisconsin. Individuals from Kenosha, Racine, Walworth, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee and Washington counties participated. It was exciting for us to watch people from different communities come together to begin collaborative planning for open space protection. Based on the evaluations received at the end of the day, the workshops were very successful. Con-veners were selected for each county and the next best steps are currently being identified and acted on. Thank you to all who participated! ■

Thank You!

Douglas Berry of Suby, Von Haden and Associates for accounting help

Vanderwalle and Associates for hosting the Gathering Waters Conservancy Board meeting this past November

Waukesha Land Conservancy for hosting the June Gathering Waters Board meeting

Reine Wells and **Dean Herriges**, owners of Eagle Centre House Bed & Breakfast in Eagle, WI, for hosting the June Board meeting

Daniel Mortensen for giving the “Public Speaking with Confidence” workshop August 1, at Edgewood College

Paul Heinen of the DNR for two fantastic maps

Bernie Brouchoud and the Woodland Dunes Nature Center for providing accommodations for the March 27 meeting of the GWC’s Lake Michigan Shoreland Initiative

Earth Tech of Sheboygan for providing a meeting facility for the August 23rd meeting of the Lake Michigan Initiative

Peg Kohring (The Conservation Fund), **Cynthia Olmstead** (Mississippi Valley Conservancy), **Darrel Mills** (Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation), **Renee Kivikko** (Land Trust Alliance), **Heather Rigney**

(Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy) and **Jerry Paulson** (Natural Land Institute), for sharing their time and expertise with the Lake Michigan Shoreland Initiative

The Inn at Maritime Bay in Manitowoc for a terrific deal on accommodations for the June meeting of the Lake Michigan Shoreland Initiative.

Dana Chabot of Wegner LLP for accounting help.

Grants Received Since January 1, 2002

Alliant Energy Foundation
Francis Beidler Foundation
Eugenie Mayer Bolz Foundation
Boston Foundation's Echo Rock Fund
Robert G. Friedman Foundation
Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Gerda A. Debelak Fund
Steve J. Miller Foundation
The Paunack Foundation
Pleasant Rowland Foundation
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
The Ziegler Foundation, Inc.

New Members

Georgiana Anderson
Rich & Katie Bielfuss
Richard & Gloria Bier
Steve Branca
Margaret Burlingham
Jack Connelly
John Eugster
Frank & Laura Farwell
Nan Fey & Bill Cronon
Nancy Frank
Christopher Hughes
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Thomas “Tuck” & Peggie Mallery
Nichelle Martin
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Sara Streich
Jeffrey Strobel
Wilbur Wright
Carol Wyant
Robert Zeinemann
Stacey Ziegelbauer
B.C. Ziegler III
Bernard C. & Peg Ziegler

Correction!

In Gathering Waters 2001 Annual Report, Virginia Bolger should have been listed as a “Creek Watcher.” We apologize for the mistake.

We want to thank all of our donors, without whom our work would not be possible. Your generosity is an inspiration to all of us working to preserve those places that make Wisconsin special. On behalf of the board, staff and volunteers of Gathering Waters Conservancy, thank you.

—Vicki Elkin, Executive Director

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Crosscurrents

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How to Participate in Conserving Wisconsin's Private Lands Through Gathering Waters Conservancy



Your membership with Gathering Waters Conservancy helps land trusts across Wisconsin. Here, land trusts receive the "Aldo Leopold Award" at GWC's Site Conservation Planning Workshop.

Become a Member The timing is critical for conserving our remaining open spaces and for protecting the places that make Wisconsin special. People are looking to Wisconsin's land trust community to save the landscapes we love. And Wisconsin's land trusts rely on Gathering Waters Conservancy for the support and resources they need to do this critical work. As a member of Gathering Waters Conservancy, you partner in our effort to help land trusts and landowners protect thousands of acres before our remaining natural places disappear.

Double the Impact of Your Donation with an Employer Match If your employer has a matching contribution program, be sure and take advantage to double the impact of your donation.

Donate Stock Avoid paying capital gains taxes by donating appreciated stocks and bonds to Gathering Waters Conservancy. Donors are entitled to a charitable income tax deduction equal to the full market value of the stock.

Remember Gathering Waters Conservancy in your Will You can name Gathering Waters Conservancy as a beneficiary of specific assets in your will. Bequests are completely free from federal estate tax. Contact our office for more information.

Make an In-kind Donation Gathering Waters has a "wish list" of items to help us accomplish our goals. Do you have an older, but functional computer to donate? Office furniture? Contact Gathering Waters Conservancy for more information.