



WINTER/SPRING 2024

DRIFTLESS

A Newsletter from the Driftless Area Land Conservancy

*“Nothing retains its original form, but
Nature, the goddess of all renewal,
keeps altering one shape into another.
Nothing at all in the world can perish...”*

- Ovid



DRIFTLESS
AREA LAND CONSERVANCY



CONSERVE, CARE, CONNECT



I'm writing this on a balmy and windy 70-degree MARCH day. I really want to be outside but the wind has forced me back in. I'm remembering another day of unseasonable weather a few years ago... The wind was gusting like it is today, at over 40 miles an hour, but the temperature was hovering around 40 – unseasonably cool for April! We were having our annual Spring Social at the Folklore Village that afternoon, overlooking their fabulous prairie. We pictured conversations on the deck overlooking the prairie, short hikes to see if any fresh growth was coming up. What's that saying about humans planning and God laughing?

We still had a great indoor event and I was very moved by how many people showed up on such a nasty day. So many of us to come together in fellowship because we care about the Driftless. As I was gathering my thoughts to address the room, I also thought about connections. The room was loud with people making connections with new and old friends. And of course, our reason for being is to protect the Driftless Area – this organization began as a small group of conservationists working to fill a need here in southwest Wisconsin. So this alliteration made sense – conserve, care, connect.

“This year we’re focusing even more on the connection part...”

This year we're focusing even more on the connection part. We have a bigger-than-ever roster of field trips, work days, and community gatherings - from a farmer potluck, to learning about frog calls, to building trails. And we're making changes to our staff too! Our beloved Emilee Martell, who currently manages both our communications and fundraising, is shifting to a sole communications focus. And we're filling that fundraising gap by bringing on a new Development Director.

We simply can't protect and care for the Driftless without connecting with you, connecting with the land, and connecting with each other around this shared value. I'm always so buoyed by your enthusiasm and look forward to connecting even more over the next year. Check out our events schedule, and... bring a friend to share your love of the Driftless!

Jennifer Filipiak
Executive Director
jennifer@driftlessconservancy.org

Blue-eyed grass in bloom at the Glass prairie restoration (see story on page 7). Photo by Barb Barzen.



EXTREME MAKEOVER: PRESERVE EDITION

Howdy! We're Sardeson, Erickson, and Wild Oaks, the DALC Ambassador Properties, and we just wanted to stop by and say: WOW! We are looking and feeling amazing in 2024 – and it's all thanks to YOU!

We're returning to our roots (haha!) and rocking the retro looks of pre-European-settlement Wisconsin. Invasive brush choking out our native shrubs, grasses, and flowers was just NOT doing it for us any more, you know? And we have absolutely been pining for some refreshing controlled burns – they're the best kind of glow-up! Now, with your support for increased land management, we're finally starting to look and feel our best again.



Before and after brush removal at a Wild Oaks Preserve workday. Room to breathe again – whew! Photos by Amanda Zasada.

But this kind of transformation doesn't happen overnight! We want to give a HUGE shoutout to the volunteers who have been working so hard to give us our glam back. You know who you are! For everyone else, you can check out some of the STUNNING numbers from these incredible folks on page 4.

What good are these fresh, dazzling looks, though, without our adoring fans? By that we mean the native plants and animals who have come flocking to our newly improved habitat, but also you humans, who make us feel so special and loved! If you've visited us to hike our trails, take some pictures, have a picnic, or learn something new, thanks a million. If you haven't yet – what are you waiting for? 2024 is your year! Visit www.driftlessconservancy.org/ambassador-properties for details and directions.

Now, we don't want to sound too full of ourselves. The truth is, there's a lot left to do to get us back in top shape. We've still got tons of those annoying non-native species around. Our forests are too crowded for oaks (our signature species!) to thrive the way they should. And did we mention how much we want more prescribed fire?

You know, you could help with all that! Head to www.driftlessconservancy.org/volunteer and check out DALC's ongoing workdays. They usually happen on the first and third Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays of the month, so there are tons of opportunities to join in. Plus, you can even lend a hand with our new pal, the Driftless Trail. If shovels and loppers aren't your thing, get in touch about taking photos, assisting in the office, or sharing a special skill! DALC's got something for everyone.

And just by being part of the land conservation community, you've made a real difference to us, and all our grasses, flowers, trees, streams, turtles, birds, butterflies, bumblebees – well, everything! Thanks for your fabulous support. See you out in the Driftless!

- Sardeson, Erickson, and Wild Oaks with assistance from Emilee Martell (emilee@driftlessconservancy.org)



Dedicated volunteers at Erickson Conservation Area gear up for a day of habitat restoration. It's always nice to see our admirers! Photo by Zach Pacana.



The UW Outing Club paid a visit to Sardeson Forest Preserve to explore its unique geology and help remove invasive species. Photo by Zach Pacana.

Driftless Area Land Conservancy

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Cover Photo: Gigi La Budde
A spring burn on the forever-protected Glass property (see story on page 7)

Interested in protecting your land? Give us a call at 608.930.3252 for a confidential discussion.

In 2023, supporters like you made a huge difference to the land, water, wildlife, and people of the Driftless. Take a look at what we accomplished together!

CONSERVATION

We partnered with private landowners to close four easements that protect approximately 740 acres.

After the completion of due diligence work, DALC's board approved the completion of four additional easements, expected to close in early 2024, totaling an additional 525 acres.

We worked closely with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to learn the complex process to apply for federal funding to protect farmland. This knowledge enables us to take advantage of millions of dollars newly

available for farmland protection through the Inflation Reduction Act.

Demand for land protection is growing! We received a steady stream of inquiries throughout the year from new landowners looking to conserve their piece of the Driftless with us. Fortunately, our land team has grown as well, with addition of Hannah Ornelles, our Conservation Coordinator, in June!



Hannah Ornelles (and Sadie the dog).



A view of Little Bear Farm, a property forever protected by a DALC conservation easement. Photo by Stephanie Judge.



Landowners Ruth and Bruce Marion at their conservation easement closing with DALC Conservation Director Stephanie Judge and Board President Dale Moody.

CARE

Volunteers spent 1239 hours caring for the land this year, which is a 60% increase from 2022! Stewardship activities included:

- Conducting five safe and successful prescribed burns over 156 acres
- Preparing 600 acres for future prescribed burns through unit planning and establishing fire breaks
- Clearing 25 acres of invasive woody brush that was choking out diverse plant communities and oak trees
- Treating 204 acres to set back herbaceous weeds including garlic mustard, spotted knapweed, thistle, wild parsnip, and dame's rocket
- Completing trail tread and signage for 5 miles of the Driftless Trail with the help of 46 volunteers

Lowery Creek watershed residents and partners also worked on numerous land stewardship projects, including:

- Controlling invasive Japanese knotweed
- Conducting and encouraging prescribed burns at several properties in the watershed, including a burn that was part of a long effort to restore the Taliesin Pond
- Continued stream monitoring through the statewide Water Action Volunteers program, increasing from seven to nine sites
- Bringing in experts on managing beavers in trout streams

This land management work is paying off as we discover rare and threatened species thriving at the sites where we work, including putty root orchid and Blanding's turtles!

Burning brush piles at Erickson Conservation Area, thanks to hardworking volunteers. Photo by Zach Pacana.



A Blanding's turtle was spotted enjoying the shade at a DALC preserve. Photo by Zach Pacana.



CONNECTION

With over 90% of the Driftless in private ownership, it takes all of us to create positive change on a landscape scale! We continue to coordinate thriving partnerships, including:

- The Lowery Creek Watershed Initiative
- Southern Driftless Grasslands
- The Clean Local Energy Alliance - Now! (CLEA-N)
- Land management at Bloomfield Prairie

We held our annual Legacy Picnic to connect with members of our Legacy Society, and hosted our first-ever "Forever Driftless" gathering with conservation easement landowners.

Through an essay contest, the CLEA-N partnership inspired the formation of two student-led groups: the Clean Energy

Transition Team at Dodgeville High School and the Earth Wise Club at Mineral Point High School. Both groups are leading energy, recycling, and composting projects, tabling events at science fairs and career days, and working with school administrators to bring rooftop solar to their buildings.

Our community looks to us to establish the Driftless Trail and build more ways to connect people to the land and to each other. As of January 1st, 2024, we have six miles across three segments open to explore.

Through all these activities and more during the course of the year, we engaged more than 700 people in workshops, trainings, and events!

A birding hike on the Knobs Road segment of the Driftless Trail. Photo by Barb Barzen.



Winter exploration on Taliesin's Phoebe Point Trail. Photo by Barb Barzen.



Attendees of DALC's annual Sandhill Crane Viewing gaze out over the Lower Wisconsin River on a bright November day. Photo by Barb Barzen.

In 2023, we were saddened to say goodbye to several longtime DALC supporters who had remarkable impacts on protecting land and restoring the native ecosystems of the Driftless. We hope you find inspiration in their stories and in the incredible legacy they left on the land!

RESTORING PRAIRIE: BUILDING A LEGACY

Former Monroe resident and radiologist David Wisnefske dedicated the last twenty-five years of his life to restoring the historic landscapes of Green and Lafayette counties to their former wildflower glory. Dave and his wife Kris purchased 232.5 acres of hunting land in Argyle, WI in 1990, commencing what would become his life's mission. Inspired by the evocative words of his favorite writer and conservationist, Aldo Leopold, Dave retired from his career as a radiologist in 1999 and became a prairie doctor.



Looks like hunting season! Dave stands before an enormous red oak at Savanna Springs.

Dave's Savanna Springs - with its old-growth burr oak trees, quiet meandering stream, and trout pond - became a popular destination for his family and friends. To this day, the land draws environmentalists, historians, and sporting enthusiasts alike for its historic oak woodland, prairie containing approximately twenty prairie remnants, unique grassland birds and rare plants, and its diverse and ample wildlife. When David wasn't planting flowers, he hunted, fished, and assisted others with their own restoration projects. He also served as a volunteer educator to pass on his conservation ethic to future

generations. Over the course of his twenty-five years as the "Prairie Doc," he restored prairie throughout Wisconsin, including 100 acres of his own land.

Spend an hour atop a hill at Savanna Springs in the summertime and you will find a wonderland. Monarchs and swallowtails flit from flowering tangerine milkweed to royal purple coneflowers. Bumble bees luxuriate on sunflowers. Tree leaves and limbs dance and whisper to the wind, sharing their stories of bygone days. Tall grasses the color of wheat and gold swell and fall like waves all around you. You can see for miles - what seems like the ends of the earth - then you realize it's only the ends of the Driftless.

In 2016, Dave worked with the Driftless Area Land Conservancy to establish a conversation easement and protect this land forever. Dave passed away in August of 2023, but his legacy will live on in the land and in the hearts of all those he inspired through his efforts to restore and maintain Southwestern Wisconsin's sweeping prairies.

- Adrienne Roach, Dave's daughter-in-law

Native asters, photographed by Dave.



Stephanie Judge and Jason Thomas hold a copy of That Tree after planting two of the burr oak's grand-seedlings at Savanna Springs.

DALC wanted to honor Dave as an extraordinary conservationist who, alongside Kris, forever protected an incredible piece of the Driftless. In late fall of 2023, DALC board member Mark Hirsch provided two seedlings from That Tree - the titular burr oak from his photo book - to become part of Dave's legacy at Savanna Springs. The seedlings were planted by DALC's Conservation Director Stephanie Judge, and NRCS District Conservationist Jason Thomas, another friend of the Wisnefske's.



Barbara Glass among blooming lupine. "She loved lupine so much," says her friend Gigi La Budde, who took this photo.



DALC staff and friends of Brad and Barbara, ready to spread seed collected from a Glass prairie. Photo by Stephanie Judge.

HONORING TWO DALC FOUNDERS

DALC's growth over the past 23 years owes so much to our organization's founders, who had the vision, passion, and commitment to set this land trust up for success. Sadly, several of those founders are no longer with us, including Brad and Barbara Glass, who were instrumental in the creation of DALC. But the impacts they had on restoration and conservation in the Driftless Area continue to ripple out.

Brad and Barbara spent their careers in Chicago, including Brad's eight years in the Illinois state legislature. They moved to Wisconsin in 1987, settling down on 290 scenic acres between Governor Dodge State Park and House on the Rock. The home they built was designed by their friend Robert Graves and inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's prairie architecture. Both Brad and Barbara loved the outdoors, and were avid campers and canoe racers. Brad served as Iowa County representative to the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board from 1995 to 2001. Barbara was passionate about habitat restoration and, in 1988, bought a native plant nursery, "Little Valley Farm," from another founding board member, David Kopitzke.



Brad and Barbara in the late 1980s as the proud new owners of Little Valley Farm, with a sign painted by founder David Kopitzke. Photo provided by Gigi La Budde.

"Barbara was just captured by the idea of prairie," says her friend Barbara Morford. She and Joe Brey currently manage the Glass property as a vacation rental on VRBO, assisted by other conservationists who help with land management and restoration.

Gigi La Budde, another friend of Barbara's who worked with her at Little Valley Farm for 12 years, agrees, recalling how Barbara installed native plants around signs in Dodgeville and helped create a "postage-stamp" prairie at the Spring Green Community Library. Barbara enjoyed planting, but also worked hard on the maintenance of her restorations, fiercely tackling invasive species. Even into her nineties, Gigi says, "No matter where we went, if we walked in a place with plants, Barbara was on her knees weeding."

Meanwhile, Brad also got involved with prairies through Iowa County Recreation & Prairie Restoration (ICRPR), which formed in 1998 to keep Dodgeville's Bloomfield Prairie enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) so it wouldn't be converted back to agriculture. DALC board member Peter Vanderloo, another founder of ICRPR, remembers the organization's first meeting being held at the Glass house, where Brad, an experienced attorney, wrote their by-laws.

After all their engagement with local conservation efforts, it's no surprise that in 1999, when a new land trust was proposed in the Driftless region, Brad and Barbara were there. As one of the first board members, Brad was key to answering early legal questions for DALC and helping draft our initial conservation easements. With their strong commitment to land conservation and all the restoration work they had done, Barbara and Brad were excited to have their own property protected. To avoid any conflict of interest while Brad was on DALC's board, the land was protected with a conservation easement through Natural Heritage Land Trust (now Groundswell Conservancy), which was later transferred to DALC.

Brad passed away in 2015, and Barbara in 2023. To honor their memory and the amazing legacy they created in the Driftless, Barbara Morford helped DALC staff collect seed from one of Barbara's prairies at the Glass property last October. Then, on a sunny February day, we gathered with friends of Brad and Barbara to share memories and scatter the collected seed at one of DALC's restoration sites, improving its biodiversity and resilience. We are so grateful to Brad and Barbara for being part of DALC's beginning, and for making positive impacts that will keep resonating into the future.

- Emilee Martell (emilee@driftlessconservancy.org)



Mark Mittelstadt's grandfather Herb Schwartz took this photo of a massive flock of ducks and geese on the Upper Mississippi Fish & Wildlife Refuge, which celebrates its 100th birthday this year.

A NATURAL HERITAGE

Legacies begin every day in the Driftless, through volunteers whose hard work tips the scales in habitat restorations, parents who take their children on trips into nature, landowners who forever protect special places with conservation easements, and more. But it's not always easy to pinpoint when a legacy starts or know what its influence will be. That's why we cherish DALC's Legacy Society – a special group of supporters who have included DALC in their estate plans. It's a tangible glimpse of the future, a promise of positive impact on our wonderful Driftless Area.

Mark Mittelstadt, a current and founding DALC board member, has some tremendous legacies in his life. "My family has a history of conservation, in which I've also spent my career," Mark explains. "My Grandfather was an outdoor photographer for 50 years and a sportsman all his life. He worked with Ding Darling who went to Washington D.C. with Aldo Leopold to secure funding for the Wildlife Refuge System and set up the National Wildlife Federation. He left us many photos of Wildlife Refuges and wild lands, including the Upper Mississippi River Refuge which is having its 100th anniversary this year."



Mark Mittelstadt's grandfather, Herb Schwartz, was an outdoor photographer and conservationist – this shot shows him in action on the Mississippi River.

Mark was born and raised in western New York, where the hills, farms, and trout streams are very similar to the Driftless, and let Mark spend his boyhood fishing, canoeing, and exploring undeveloped lands with his family.

"I've fished and hunted since I was a kid," Mark says. "When I was 16, I came from New York to the Outward Bound School in the Boundary Waters of Minnesota for a month-long canoe/survival course."

That was Mark's first taste of the Midwest, and he soon returned, attending UW-Madison for college. All his connections to the natural world inspired Mark to get a BS in forestry, wildlife, and ecology, and become a forester. Over the course of forty years, he's worked with over a thousand private landowners on basic forestry and natural community restoration. But before Driftless Area Land Conservancy, there was something missing: permanent protection for all the land that was being managed, restored, cared for, enjoyed, and deeply loved.

Mark knew his short-term projects were important. But long-term protection was needed to make a lasting difference to the natural resources of the Driftless.



A young Mark with a 41-pound grouper caught on a family trip to the Gulf of Mexico.

So, alongside other passionate local conservationists, including his wife Brenda, (and Brad and Barbara Glass from page 7!) and with a long family history of conservation to guide him, Mark helped create Driftless Area Land Conservancy. As an active board member who's watched us grow for over two decades, Mark says, "When I helped found this land trust 24 years ago, I didn't imagine what it has grown into: owning land, protecting thousands of acres, and so many other projects. As I've been able to support good causes, this is highest on my list."

As retirement approached, Mark took stock of his finances, and decided to share support for DALC in two ways. First, he named DALC as a beneficiary of some of his investments, which made Mark a part of the Legacy Society.

"We're planning for a long and interesting retirement - my Great Aunt lived to 105, and met the President at 104," Mark shares. "But in case we don't make it that long, we want to know where the remainder will go. It seems better to just plan that now and put it out of mind."

"Of course," Mark adds, "there's nothing wrong with investing in DALC's current activities too. As Jim O'Brien, one of our longtime board members, said, 'We want to put some of our funds into things while we can still enjoy seeing the results.'"

Last fall, both these areas of giving came together when Mark pledged \$10,000 in matching funds to grow the Legacy Society - \$1,000 each for ten new members. We are delighted to share that DALC met that challenge, and

want to extend a heartfelt thanks to each and every one of our new Legacy Society members!

"For those of us with a love for nature, it seems a 'natural' way to invest in the future," Mark notes.

Anyone can join the Legacy Society at any time - there are no fees or minimum investments involved. To learn more, head to www.driftlessconservancy.org/join-the-legacy-society, give us a call at 608-930-3252, or check out page 11 in this newsletter! A commitment to the Legacy Society now is a powerful gift for the future of the Driftless.

One legacy inspires more - like all the hunters, fishers, and conservationists who learned from Dave Wisnefske, the 'Prairie Doc' (page 6); the new prairie plants flourishing from the hard work of Brad and Barbara Glass (page 7); and the capacity-building gifts from Mark that stemmed from a grandfather who captured the natural world in film and passed down his admiration and respect to generations of family.

"The world is run by those who show up, those who do the work, those who support it and make it possible..."

What are the legacies that support and uplift you? What will your legacy be - in the Driftless and far beyond?

"The world is run by those who show up, those who do the work, those who support it and make it possible," Mark says. We are proud that those folks make up our DALC community. Thank you for building amazing legacies with us!

- Emilee Martell (emilee@driftlessconservancy.org) & Mark Mittelstadt



The Legacy Society picnic is an annual celebration of this amazing group and a chance for interested folks to learn more. In 2023, we gathered at the gorgeous Taliesin estate in Spring Green. Photo by Lauren Rosenthal.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The pandemic impacted the way we all live. We changed what we were doing and how we were doing it. I know we missed out on many things that we would have otherwise done. People adapted to working from home, Zoom was used in classrooms and businesses, and a surge in outdoor recreation brought us closer to nature. Now, four years after the start of the pandemic, we are returning to a "new normal."

DALC had to change with the pandemic also. We went through a period of time where land protection was slowed down with new challenges. But I'm happy to report that things are going very well now.

It took the first 20 years of DALC's history to protect 8,000 acres of land from development. Now, with more staff capacity and community support, we plan on doubling that number in the next 5 years.

The Driftless Trail was just an idea in 2019. Today, six miles of the trail across three segments are open, with more on the way.

We bought our first nature preserve in 2012 with the purchase of Erickson Conservation Area. We now own and maintain

four properties: Erickson, Sardeson Forest Preserve, Morrison Prairie & Forest Preserve, and Wild Oaks Preserve – 560 acres of publicly accessible land! We also manage 400 acres of the Bloomfield Prairie in cooperation with Iowa County Land & Water Conservation and Iowa County Recreation & Prairie Restoration.

In 2022, thanks to a tremendous community fundraising effort, we purchased the 180-acre Ringelstetter Wetland adjacent to the Lower Wisconsin River. Last year, we transferred ownership of this parcel to the state of Wisconsin to connect adjoining public lands and become part of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway.

One of our Legacy Society members named DALC as a beneficiary of 630 acres of land protected by a DALC conservation easement. Upon her passing, DALC became the owner of the property. A decision was made to sell this property to a conservation buyer, and the proceeds were used to set up a Conservation Impact Fund, which supports high-priority conservation work in the Driftless Area.

In spite of a global pandemic and the uncertainty we all feel as we recover, the DALC mission keeps moving forward.

Your continuing support makes this all possible.

Thank you,
Dale Moody



A winter sunrise at Wild Oaks Preserve. Photo by Zach Pacana.

WELCOME TO DALC

We are excited to have Laura Daniels join the board of Driftless Area Land Conservancy. As you can see in her bio below, she brings a wealth of energy and experience!

Laura Daniels is a mother, farmer, consultant, coach and agriculture advocate. For 15 years, Laura served as the General Manager of 300 Jersey cows at Heartwood Farm, her very own dairy farm. She keeps her farming dream alive currently running her farm with beef and crops. Now, she advises fellow farmers and business owners in the areas of team building and strategic planning with Hitch Pin Consulting. Laura is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Dairy Science and Agricultural & Life Sciences Communication. She is active with the Iowa County and Wisconsin Farm Bureau among many other organizations. Her pride and joy is coaching the Iowa County Dairy Judging team, which she has done for more than 20 years. Laura founded Dairy Girl Network in 2013 to help fellow dairywomen across the United States connect and succeed. Laura enjoys sharing this passion through giving



speeches and leading workshops that inspire many to find their purpose, build their skill, and have the confidence to tell their story.

A question for Laura: What inspired you to join the DALC board?

"There are two main points. First, I really, really believe in conservation and, as a landowner myself, doing the right thing by the land," Laura says, pointing to Aldo Leopold's land ethic as an inspiration for the way she's sustainably farmed her own property. "I love that DALC is preserving land so it can be cared for, and helping private landowners manage their protected land."

"Second, I grew up in Kenosha. I have seen firsthand beautiful farmland and natural habitat developed in a way that was not smart." That development pressure gave Laura a different perspective and appreciation when she came to the open spaces of the Driftless. "We have to develop, but we can do it in an intelligent way. Protecting sensitive land is a part of that."

THE DRIFTLESS LEGACY SOCIETY

There are few places in the world as unique as the Driftless Area of Southwest Wisconsin. That is why protecting its critical habitat and beautiful spaces is vitally important. We gratefully thank our Driftless Legacy Society members for their commitment to this distinctive landscape. By including DALC in your estate plan, you too can protect and care for the land you love for generations to come.

If you have an interest in joining our Legacy Society please let us know by contacting us at (608) 930-3252 or email emilee@driftlessconservancy.org. We value such a profound commitment to our mission and would appreciate the opportunity to thank you in your lifetime.

Thanks to you, and to those who treasure these lands, the future looks brighter.

DRIFTLESS LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Deane & Edith Arny | Lisa Luedtke |
| Anne Bachner | Mark Mittelstadt & Brenda Gasch Mittelstadt |
| Sandra Bennett | Bob Novy & Jan Froelich |
| Helen Boley | Ted Ross |
| Doug & Sherry Caves | Jack Saltes |
| David Clutter & Meredith Porembski | Roland Sardeson |
| Anne & Tim Connor | Ellyn Satter |
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| Frank Grenzow | Mary Trewartha |
| Douglas Gurak & Mary Kritz | Susan Trudell |
| Larry Hartzke | Marta Voytovich & Laurie Gauper |
| John Hess | Doug White & Gayle Alexander |
| Margaret Jones & David Linton | |
| David Kopitzke & Paul Klawiter | |

DRIFTLESS

Driftless Area
Land Conservancy

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UPCOMING EVENTS

www.driftlessconservancy.org



Beaver - Tom Koerner USFWS

We are excited to offer the following workdays, workshops, and field trips this spring. Please register for these free events at www.driftlessconservancy.org/events.

MANAGING BEAVERS IN DRIFTLESS TROUT STREAMS

April 26 | 1pm - 4pm | Savanna Institute South Farm, Spring Green

While the presence of beavers can be beneficial for many aquatic animals and systems, their habits can also be harmful in some situations. Learn about the challenges of managing increasing numbers of beavers in Driftless trout streams and options landowners have for taking action, from professionals who field frequent calls about this issue.

DRIFTLESS TRAIL WORKDAYS

First Sunday of the month | 10am - 2pm | Various sites

The Driftless Trail continues to grow, and you can be a part of it! 2024 construction will focus on Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin estate, expanding the Welsh Hills Trail to a ridge with spectacular views. No prior experience? No problem! We provide tools and training. Special all-day workdays May 3 & 4.

EVENINGS AFIELD

Monthly starting in May | 6pm - 8pm | Sites throughout Lowery Creek watershed, south of Spring Green

Learn with peers and experts at the Lowery Creek Watershed Initiative's annual Evenings Afield series. Topics will include frogs and toads, controlling invasive plants, prescribed burning, biodiversity in farming, planting prairies, and dark, starry skies. All are welcome to attend.

BIRDING HIKES

May 18 & 19 | 7am - 9am | Driftless Trail and Erickson Conservation Area

Walk the trails with seasoned birders during the height of spring migration. Choose from the varied landscape of the Driftless Trail's Knobs Road Segment, the ridge overlooking the Wisconsin River on the Phoebe Point Trail, or the vibrant wetlands of Argyle's Erickson Conservation Area.

DON'T MISS OUT ON ANY OF OUR DRIFTLESS EVENTS THIS YEAR!

Sign up for our monthly eNews and get the latest on local conservation news, programs, and volunteer opportunities. This free email will come just once a month along with any other special messages. Visit www.driftlessconservancy.org to sign up today. And, find us on Facebook and Instagram for more news and links to important work happening across the region.

Our mission is to maintain and enhance the health, diversity and beauty of Southwest Wisconsin's natural and agricultural landscape through permanent land protection and restoration, and improve people's lives by connecting them to the land and to each other.

EVENTS: DRIFTLESSCONSERVANCY.ORG/EVENTS
CALL: 608.930.3252

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- Sound Finances
- Ethical Conduct
- Responsible Governance
- Lasting Stewardship

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