



WINTER/SPRING 2025

DRIFTLESS

A Newsletter from the Driftless Area Land Conservancy



“The first bud of spring sings the other seeds into joining her uprising.”

- Amanda Gorman



DRIFTLESS
AREA LAND CONSERVANCY



Driftless Area Land Conservancy

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Cover Photo: Hepatica, one of the earliest spring wildflowers to bloom and a common feature of Big Rock Preserve (see story on page 6-7). Photo by Kyle Brooks/US Forest Service.

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

TURNING 25!



This year is Driftless Area Land Conservancy’s 25th anniversary! It’s our silver anniversary, a tradition to recognize durability, strength, and beauty. Here at the office we’ve been looking back over the last 25 years and seeing many examples of durability and strength. We weathered the 2008 recession and the Covid pandemic. And we’re in yet another period of uncertainty, as we simply don’t know the fate of government contracts we have in place, nor do we know the fate of government programs that the conservation community has tapped into for decades. We work closely with government agencies like the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, and we are worried about our peers’ jobs and programs. Living with such extreme uncertainty is, well, it’s hard.

Leaders are advised to embrace uncertainty with personal humility, continuous learning, and experimentation, and to prepare for resilience by diversifying funding sources, maintaining the flexibility to “pivot” quickly. DALC’s funding sources are diverse, so we can weather the loss of expected federal funds, and we’ve all gotten pretty good at pivoting (hybrid work, anyone?). But what really helps is leaning into community.

Over the last decade, DALC’s pivot points have been in response to the community we serve. We stepped up when our community wanted to fight the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line, learning that, indeed, there were alternatives to building a massive new line. We stepped up when the Southern Driftless Grasslands partnership needed to hire a full time partnership manager to re-energize and re-organize. With the incredibly ambitious Driftless Trail, and opening new preserves, we’re responding to the need for our community to have more access to nature.

And you, our community, have responded in incredible and inspiring ways! From the growing Legacy Society, to feedback from happy hikers reveling in the views and bald eagle sightings on the Driftless Trail, to landowners calling about conservation easements, to all of your stories about skiing at Wintergreen in the 80s – it’s because of you we know we’re on the right path toward achieving our mission of protecting the Driftless. Your trust in us allows us to boldly step into our next 25 years, continuing to dream big, to stay focused but keep pivoting, and to continue leaning into community.

The 25th anniversary is represented by silver, a symbol of durability and strength, but what about beauty? Well, that’s undeniable, it’s the Driftless!

Jennifer Filipiak
Executive Director
jennifer@driftlessconservancy.org

Winter on the Knobs Road segment of the Driftless Trail. Photo by Barb Barzen.



Legacy Society member Ellyn Satter.

“ENERGIZED AND REJUVENATED”

Ellyn Satter was our first-ever Legacy Society member, kicking off a special group of supporters who include DALC in their will or estate plans. This impactful commitment ensures that DALC will be able to continue protecting land, restoring habitat, and connecting people with the Driftless long into the future. For Ellyn, the decision to join the Legacy Society arose from a lifetime of love for the land.

Ellyn grew up on a farm in South Dakota and credits her family’s care of the land as the beginning of her strong land ethic. “I always loved being outside. Walking in the pasture, riding my bike, helping with farming, driving tractors was fun; pulling cockleburrs was not so fun.”

“My dad was a holistic farmer before holistic farmers were fashionable,” Ellyn says. “Before we had pesticides and fertilizers, farmers rotated their crops regularly and grew grain for the livestock. It was an extremely diverse setup. My mom raised about 100 chickens and had an egg business. She would take the eggs to town on Saturday nights and trade them for groceries. They were before their time.”

But as Ellyn shares, her parents’ story was one of loss of community. With the introduction of the combine and haybaler, harvesting methods changed from collaborative events to working alone. “Threshing and haystacking were always community affairs, with Mom making big dinners for a dozen or more workers. Dad stopped enjoying farming when he could no longer get together with his neighbors and brothers and friends to do the work. Mom lost community as well. The church closed and the Ladies Aid stopped meeting. But the biggest loss was when her party telephone line was replaced with a private line. We had about 28 people on the party line and everybody would ‘rubber’ or listen in. It was a way to find out everybody’s news. If there were a community emergency or news, the operator would put out a general call that everyone knew they needed to pick up. Mom really missed the party line. She was a pretty shy person and never replaced the party line as a way to stay connected with others.”

Life would take Ellyn to Madison, WI, for an internship and graduate school, and was the place she started her family. There, Ellyn began building her own community - with the people around her, and with the natural world.

“When the kids were little, we used to go camping all the time. It was the glory days in the state parks. Back in the day, there were lots of programs and rangers. We could go on bird walks, geology walks, tree walks, and flower walks. There were lots of public programs with various topics in the evenings. I started enjoying being able to put names to what I was seeing,” Ellyn shares. “I really credit the state parks for giving me a direction for learning and growing with respect to the natural world. From there on I was able to find other opportunities to feed my interest.”

In the late 1970’s, Ellyn and her husband purchased their farm north of Barneveld. “It was exciting to get out on the land and learn what was there. We put the woods into Managed Forest Law and didn’t have cows, and it was wonderful to see what wildflowers came back. I got interested in native gardening in town, and now have a couple of pocket prairies as well as some understory gardens.”

Now at 83, Ellyn still visits natural areas as often as possible. It’s her favorite form of recreation. “There’s nothing like getting out in nature and seeing the wildflowers—it’s like seeing an old friend. I feel energized and rejuvenated by nature. When you can recognize plants and plant communities, you enjoy them so much more. You learn enough to speak a language, to at least ask the questions to learn even more.”

We are so grateful for Ellyn’s love of the Driftless Area and her trust in DALC to do our part by helping to take care of it. If you’d like to learn more about joining the Legacy Society, check out page 11.

- Angie Buelow (angie@driftlessconservancy.org)



DALC board and staff members explore Big Rock, our newest nature preserve. Photo by Zach Pacana.

DRIFTLESS AREA LAND CONSERVANCY: A 25-YEAR STORY

Once upon a time, in the picturesque Driftless Area, a vision was born—a vision to protect and preserve the unique landscapes and ecosystems of this treasured region. It all began in the year 2000, when a group of dedicated individuals gathered at Jordahl Farm in Richland County. Their discussions planted the seeds for what would become the Driftless Area Land Conservancy (DALC).

ESTABLISHING ROOTS (2000-2005)

1 staff member, 749 acres protected

In 2001, DALC became an official nonprofit, with a passionate team of volunteers led by Tim Freeman as President. Over the next few years, the organization began to take shape. By 2003, we hired our first staff member, Doug Cieslak, as Executive Director and completed our first conservation easements, marking the start of our land protection journey. In 2005, DALC partnered with The Prairie Enthusiasts and the DNR, utilizing NRCS funds to protect farmland—a groundbreaking step that set the tone for future collaborations.

BUILDING MOMENTUM (2006-2010)

2 staff members, 2,287 acres protected

The next chapter of DALC's story was defined by resilience and growth. Despite the economic challenges of the 2008 Great Recession, DALC persevered, safeguarding vital lands. By 2010, we achieved a significant milestone, protecting our largest contiguous parcel, the 548-acre Schuelke Easement. This effort was part of a broader initiative to connect properties within the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area, further cementing DALC's commitment to landscape-level conservation.

EXPANDING CONSERVATION EFFORTS (2011-2015)

5 staff members, 5,860 acres protected

As our story unfolded, DALC's reach expanded. In 2011, under the leadership of a new Executive Director, Dave Clutter, DALC protected six contiguous conservation easements, collectively known as Dry Dog Ranch, in Iowa County. The following year brought more firsts: DALC acquired Erickson Conservation Area, our first owned preserve, and extended our efforts into Green and Lafayette Counties. By 2015, DALC completed the Lowery Creek Watershed Plan, underscoring our focus on community centered, ecosystem-level preservation and watershed health.



Building the kiosk at Erickson Conservation Area.

RECOGNITION AND RESILIENCE (2016-2020)

9 staff members, 7,852 acres protected

DALC's growing reputation for excellence was solidified between 2016 and 2020. We were called on to help conservation efforts in our region beyond the scope of easements and preserves, and thanks to the support of our community, we were able to answer. During this period, DALC launched the Bloomfield Prairie Partnership, began our Driftless Trail project, and publicly opposed the Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line, which led to the establishment of Iowa County CLEA-N. In 2017, in the midst of these many endeavors, DALC earned national accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance and was named Wisconsin's Land Trust of the Year by Gathering Waters. In 2020, despite the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic, DALC ended the year on a high note with the acquisition of Wild Oaks Preserve in Dane County.

ADVANCING CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP (2021-2025)

11 staff members, 9,550 acres protected

The most recent chapter of DALC's story is one of innovation and leadership. In 2021, DALC facilitated its first land protection assist with Ringelstetter Wetland, which was later donated to the DNR. In 2023, we secured "Grasslands of Special Significance" funding from the federal government for a conservation easement, a groundbreaking achievement for Wisconsin. By 2024, we hired our first Development Director, ensuring a strong foundation for future growth, and acquired two more fee properties, Dragon Woods and Big Rock. Now, in 2025, DALC celebrates 25 years of conservation success, reflecting on our journey while looking ahead to an even brighter future.



The sign marking a property forever protected by a conservation easement. Photo by Hannah Ornelles.

THE IMPACT OF 25 YEARS

We are proud of what we've achieved together over the past quarter-century. DALC has protected over 9,500 acres through conservation easements and established flagship preserves like Erickson, Morrison, Wild Oaks, and Big Rock. Through strong partnerships with fellow conservation nonprofits, local governments, and dedicated individuals, our impact has grown exponentially. Being accredited by the national Land Trust Alliance is a testament to the trust and commitment you have placed in us.

From our humble beginnings at the Jordahl Farm to our role today as a trusted leader in conservation, none of this work would be possible without your dedicated support. As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, we're confident that our work to inspire communities, safeguard vital habitats, and protect the natural beauty of the Driftless Area will endure for generations to come... because of you!



DALC board and staff members visit the Glass property, one of DALC's early conservation easements. Photo by Zach Pacana.

ALL KINDS OF BEAUTIFUL THINGS



Jim and Rose Sime out at Big Rock.
Photo by Stephanie Judge.

The whole Driftless is a remarkable region, but there are especially remarkable places throughout it – and luckily, there are remarkable people who care for them. We're thrilled to share the story of Big Rock, a remarkable place, and Jim and Rose Sime, the remarkable people who made it possible to forever protect, steward, and share this land.

The Simes' connection to the Driftless goes back a long way, especially for Jim, who grew up around Boscobel. "We roamed all around the hills out there," he recalls. "They all belonged to everybody." Jim and his friends would go exploring on neighbors' land, gathering nuts and mushrooms and playing in wild-growing pines they called their own "Up North." His grandfather took him to the rich mesic woods of the Kickapoo River bottoms and taught him to identify plants, leading to Jim's lifelong passion for botany.

Rose was born in Wisconsin but grew up in California. However, after coming back for grad school in Madison, she decided to stay in the Badger State for good. "It felt homey. I felt like I belonged here."

Both teachers, Jim and Rose met in Madison at the 1976 educators' strike. "It's been a good 49 years," Rose says with a smile.

Well before meeting Rose, though, Jim had achieved another milestone: becoming a landowner. After his childhood outdoors, Jim was eager to buy land of his own in the Driftless, but it was difficult to find a farmer who was willing to sell him a parcel. Finally, in 1965, Jim found 80 acres of wooded land for sale. It was too marginal for farming, so no one was sure why he wanted it. After buying the land, Jim recalls being at a nearby bar when a local came up and asked him if he'd really paid \$55 an acre for the property. Jim confirmed that he had. The man responded, "It ain't worth 10."

But to Jim, land was priceless. His vision was to protect the properties he bought as nature preserves for others to enjoy the same way he did, and Rose joined him in that endeavor. Together, they eventually owned five different parcels of at least 80 acres each.

"I used to tease him that he wanted to own half of Grant County," Rose laughs.

They purchased Big Rock in 1994. According to Jim, the site's native plants were incredible. Using a measurement called the Floristic Quality Index, developed by the Morton

Arboretum in Illinois, parcels can be assessed for the uniqueness and diversity of their existing native plants and given a number that captures the ecological quality. "Anything with a value over 50 should be preserved immediately," Jim explains. "Big Rock had a preliminary index of 68.8."

The phenomenal plant life at Big Rock is there in part because of the amazing variety of habitat on the 140-acre property. It's primarily wooded, including a large pine relict – a rare ecosystem left over from the Ice Age, featuring species usually found much further north. The pine relict was sheltered from historic fire regimes by abundant large boulders, which also lend their name to the Big Rock Branch of the Blue River, winding through the property for about 3/4 of a mile. In addition to the rich woodlands and trout stream, this parcel includes 38 acres of grassland that are enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, further boosting the diversity of plants, insects, and other wildlife.



One of the massive boulders at Big Rock, framed by pine relict behind and trout stream in front. Photo by Stephanie Judge.

"We always loved going out with people because it was exciting to see how excited they got," Jim shares. "We took a world-renowned lichenologist out there once. He was like a kid in a candy store!"

The quality of the native species at Big Rock is also thanks to 30 years of dedicated stewardship by Jim, Rose, and their family and friends. At all their properties, they have worked diligently to combat invasive species and restore historic habitat. Everyone who's helped out has enjoyed it, with a few exceptions – Rose remembers their young son complaining about having to drag brush while Dad had the "fun" job of running the chainsaw.

Many volunteers joined Jim and Rose at Big Rock in the spring to pull garlic mustard, a persistent invader of woodlands. It's not an easy task, but it has a special reward: freeing spring ephemeral wildflowers to grow and bloom.

"That was the fun part about working on garlic mustard," Rose says. "The spring ephemerals are just incredible. [The volunteers] knew they were going to get to see all kinds of beautiful things."

Although picking a top native species is almost impossible, Jim and Rose agree that hepatica (shown on the cover of this issue) is a favorite of theirs. These early spring flowers have distinctive lobed leaves that survive the winter, and can bloom in a variety of colors, from white to pink to blue. "We used to go around and see who could find the prettiest ones," Jim says.

Following the tradition of sharing the land that Jim grew up with, visitors have long been welcome to the Simes' properties. Rose describes how when Covid began and social distancing was implemented, she and Jim sought refuge at their wilderness retreats – "but there was always someone already there!"

With so much love for their own land and a strong ethic of connecting people to the outdoors, it's no surprise that Jim and Rose are longtime volunteers and members of regional conservation groups like The Nature Conservancy, The Prairie Enthusiasts, Mississippi Valley Conservancy, and of course, DALC. In 2023, they asked if we might be interested in acquiring Big Rock.

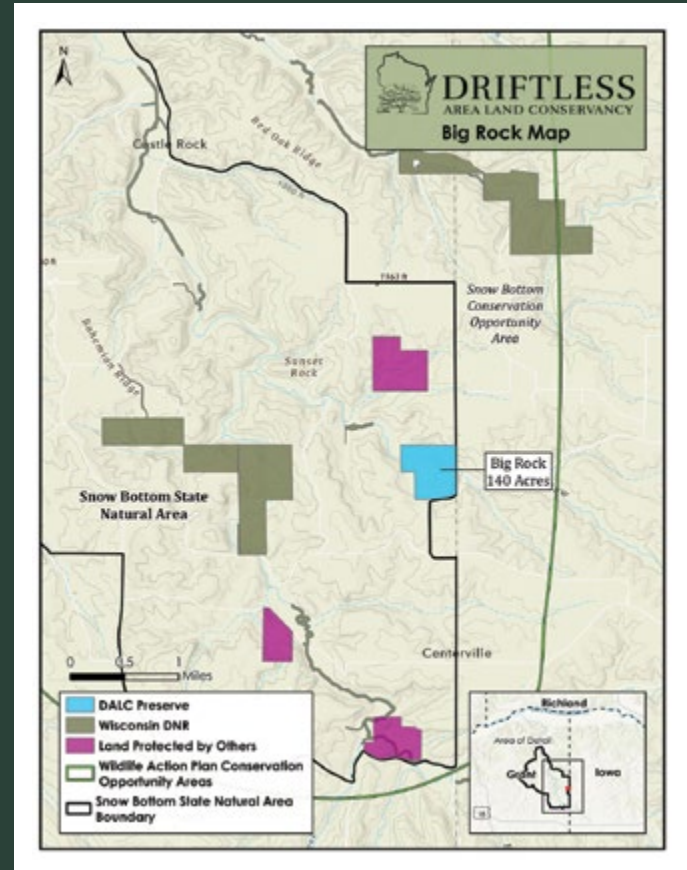
"At Big Rock, we had 30 years of absorbing the wildness," Jim says. "It was always the plan to protect [the land] from development, to hand it off to someone who could care for it. And we want to make sure other people can continue enjoying it."

Taking on a new nature preserve was a big decision. But thanks to the support of our incredible community, DALC's capacity has grown substantially in recent years, and we felt confident we could accept this responsibility. In addition, Jim and Rose made a bargain sale, which enabled us to buy the land using matching funds from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. And even more – Jim and Rose also provided a substantial donation to launch DALC's land management fund, ensuring that we'll be able to steward Big Rock and all our nature preserves for generations to come!

"We just feel really blessed we've had this land and can share it with people," Rose says.

Jim and Rose's generosity and lifelong dedication to conservation is an inspiring example of the positive impact we can have on the land and on each other. After a quarter-century as a land trust, DALC continues to be honored by the trust and support of our community. We can't wait for another 25 years of stories like this!

- Emilee Martell (emilee@driftlessconservancy.org)



PROPERTY NAME: BIG ROCK

LOCATION: In Grant County's Town of Castle Rock on the border with Iowa County, about five miles west of Highland along Irish Hollow Road.

SIZE: 140 acres

HIGHLIGHTS: Located in Grant County, in the heart of the Snow Bottom State Natural Area, Big Rock is made up of oak woodland, pine relict, working grasslands, restored prairie, and cold-water stream habitat and associated wetland. This diversity in habitat results in a diversity of plants and animals, and some notable rare woodland plants! It sits in close proximity to state land and a property protected by our fellow land trust, Mississippi Valley Conservancy, further protecting the uniquely Driftless landscape in the Snow Bottom conservation corridor.

VISITOR GUIDELINES: This is a very recent acquisition and we are working on signage, trails, and access considerations. Please keep an eye on DALC's website, social media, and e-news for updates. If you are interested in hearing about volunteer opportunities, please contact Zach Pacana at zachary@driftlessconservancy.org.



A prescribed fire demonstration at Pleasant Bluff. Photo by Gabe Erickson.



After a burn in this field, prairie smoke and other native wildflowers flourish. Photo by Olivia Horton-Pacana.

SOUTHERN DRIFTLESS GRASSLANDS BUILDS LANDOWNERS' PRESCRIBED FIRE CAPACITY

Spring is a time of renewal and regrowth. The best way to help awaken the land after the long winter months in southwest Wisconsin is to ignite a spark and administer prescribed fire to the native ecosystems of the region. Fire helps return nutrients to the soil, reduces invasive encroachment, and clears layers of leaves and grass, which gives new emerging plants the space to grow and encourages biodiversity.

Prescribed fire was used for centuries as a tool for land management. However, over the last century there has been a culture of fire suppression in the US, which has changed the nature of the ecosystems that once existed, especially grasslands, by allowing invasive species and aggressive native plants to spread. As noted in a 2019 study led by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, this impact of ecological change in our region is in part to blame for the 53% population decline of grassland birds since 1970. In an attempt to restore balance to our ecosystems, humans are putting fire back into our environment once again.

However, getting fire on the landscape is not as simple as it used to be. Landscapes that were once expansive and connected are now fragmented by property lines. Roughly 95% of the land in southwest Wisconsin is privately owned. So there is the challenge - how do we administer prescribed fire safely and effectively on a fragmented landscape with a limited amount of technical and financial resources?

This challenge is what led Pheasants Forever, a member of the Southern Driftless Grasslands partnership, to

develop the new Southern Driftless Prescribed Burn on My Property program. Working with the Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council and using National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) standards, the program is designed to help landowners (and their neighbors!) develop a better understanding of fire ecology and discover ways to use fire as a management tool on their property. Over the next three years, the program will host prescribed fire workshops, hold demonstration burns, provide burn plan development assistance, and help folks connect with the other fire-curious people in their community.

Managing these ecosystems is not a task that any one person or organization can do alone. We need to work together to manage this beautiful and unique landscape. So call your neighbor, come to a workshop together, and help us foster a community where prescribed fire on the landscape becomes a normalized practice throughout southwest Wisconsin. Future generations of birds and landowners will thank you.

Interested in learning more? Visit driftlessgrasslands.org or join in on one of our day-long Southern Driftless Prescribed Burn on My Property workshops this spring: Mount Horeb on Thursday, April 17 and Mineral Point on Saturday, May 10. Register at driftlessgrasslands.org. Please send any questions you may have to ohorton-pacana@pheasantsforever.org. We hope to see you there!

- Andy Bingle (andy@driftlessconservancy.org) and Olivia Horton-Pacana (ohorton-pacana@pheasantsforever.org)

BEYOND ACRES: TAKING MEASURE OF DALC'S COMMUNITY ROLE & WORK

Every organization has inflexion points during its lifetime. For Driftless Area Land Conservancy, the years 2014-2016 were especially pivotal. This is when our community requested help with several major landscape-scale needs, and we rose to the challenge.

First, American Transmission Company proposed the Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line, to be routed through the heart of our service area, threatening several conservation easements. Local citizens quickly organized a grassroots opposition campaign, while DALC mounted the legal challenge with the Environmental Law & Policy Center. We have been coordinating this effective collaboration for eight years. Although the transmission is now built and operational, the crossing through the Mississippi River National Fish & Wildlife Refuge has been ruled to be illegal, and is still in court.



Participants at one of the Lowery Creek Watershed Initiative's Evenings Afield events learn about sustainable farming in the area. Photo by Hannah Ornelles.

Once court cases waned, members of our community asked, "If the power line is what we are against, what are we FOR?" That question led to a forward-thinking initiative focused on our energy future. Today, the Clean Local Energy Alliance - Now (CLEA-N), is actively engaging area students and school districts in solar-related projects.

In late 2014, residents in the Lowery Creek watershed south of Spring Green began conversations around ensuring the cultural, natural, and agricultural resources at the core of their economy and quality of life will be protected and stewarded long-term. Landowners who held conservation easements with DALC invited us to the table. We assisted with planning and fundraising, and offered to house a part-time coordinator, serve as fiscal agent, and be an active partner. Ten years later, the Lowery Creek Watershed Initiative is going strong.

At the same time, a 15-year partnership of 18 agencies and organizations focused on the grassland region in



A volunteer crew working on the Driftless Trail poses with the sign to the Welsh Hills Trail. Photo by Angie Buelow.

southwest Wisconsin was losing steam. Their initial focus on the Military Ridge Conservation Area had grown to seven counties, but their projects were struggling. DALC stepped up to lead a planning process, house a full-time coordinator, and manage grants on behalf of the partnership. Today, the Southern Driftless Grasslands partnership is thriving and making a significant impact (see an example on page 8!).

While all this was happening, DALC recognized that few opportunities to explore the Driftless Area exist outside of state parks, since most of the region is privately owned. This sparked the vision of the Driftless Trail - a 50+ mile public-access trail on mostly private lands in northeastern Iowa County. From 2015-2017, we worked with the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Program to develop a concept plan, then gathered public input. Thanks to many partners, four trail segments are now open.

By 2015, DALC had developed a portfolio of 40+ conservation easements protecting some 6,000 acres. Embracing new roles in these landscape-scale initiatives led the organization to broaden its scope and approach, to more actively engage with the community and connect people to the landscape.

The Land Trust Alliance puts it well. Community-based conservation responds to community needs, connects people to place and to each other, engages and energizes people, provides public access, makes lasting and meaningful impact, and creates new partnerships. This strategy is now baked into much of what we do.

Reflecting on DALC's impact over 25 years, it is important to tout the number of acres protected and managed, but equally important to tout our role in our community.

- Barb Barzen (barb@driftlessconservancy.org)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Outside my window I see the land, finally, blanketed with deep, white snow. It covers the promise of spring. I know my snowshoe days are numbered. Soon enough our prairies will be greening up and pasque flowers will be peeping through the soil. In just a few weeks the streams will bubble past cracking ice as the sap starts to flow in our maples and birches.

At DALC we are celebrating in this season the individuals and families who've made a commitment to our future through legacy giving. Their estate gifts and bequests give our organization the same burst of energy and renewal that the warming temperatures of spring bring to our landscapes. I want to thank each and every one of our Legacy Society members. You truly bring new life to the work of protecting the Driftless!

Of course, we are also celebrating the incredible milestone of our 25th year of safeguarding the Driftless. This year provides a chance to reflect on the many hours of volunteer work, generous donors, skilled staff and board members, and courageous landowners and communities who've contributed to the many accomplishments of DALC. Over 9,000 acres protected (read about our newest property, Big Rock, on pages 6-7) and five ambassador properties all because you, our community, have decided to commit to a future where the Driftless Area is resilient.

Draw hope from our accomplishments these past 25 years and the promise of spring. We will continue this good work, our land will bloom with abundance, and together we will thrive in a future where people are connected to nature and the Driftless Area is protected.

Thank you,
Danni Lang

WELCOMING NEW BOARD MEMBERS

DARLA PATTERSON

Darla and her husband John divide their time between Chicago and their home north of Barneveld. John and Darla moved to the Driftless in 2015 and quickly fell in love with their new home and land. They learned about DALC when one of the early maps of the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line was shown routed along the back of their property. They joined the opposition and began learning more about DALC's mission and the ecological value of their land.

Darla and John are all in with ecological restoration now and are working to restore prairie, oak savanna, oak woodland and a pine relic on their property in Barneveld. Darla recently completed a Master Naturalist program so she could better manage their land.

Darla is also passionate about healthy food, and has worked on past projects that include community gardening, helping open a food co-op, and earning a certificate in Horticulture Therapy. Ever the lifelong learner, Darla is currently enrolled in an apprenticeship for Herbalism to learn how to use the abundance of plants for nourishment and healing.

Darla loves that DALC is involved in many wonderful projects in both conservation and education and hopes to be able to use her patchwork of knowledge in local foods, restoration, and board service to help however she can.

AL FRIEDMAN

Al is happy to join the DALC board to learn more about conservation and land management, emerging issues, and the opportunities in front of DALC. He retired after thirty-plus years at UW-Madison where he had management positions in areas of publishing, communications, public relations and strategic planning. Al served on numerous committees and boards, including Madison Parks Foundation, Madison Public Library Foundation, and the Madison Community Foundation. More recently Al was elected Town of Wyoming Treasurer 2021-2025. He is eager to lend his experience to DALC's current and future commitments.

Al and his wife, Susan Tikalsky, always had an orientation toward the Driftless Area in Iowa County. Starting with a small woodlot in the Town of Highland, they upsized to a 60-acre farm in the Town of Wyoming in 2005. After beating back the prickly ash for a few years they made the Town of Wyoming their permanent home in 2017. In addition to keeping chickens and honey bees, they have a small group of meat goats browsing sections of their woods spring through autumn.



Trees traced with snow. Photo by Shannon Roznoski.

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 | Judy Lovaas |
| Anne Bachner | Lisa Luedtke |
| Chuck Bauer & Chuck Beckwith | Mark Mittelstadt & Brenda Gasch Mittelstadt |
| Sandra Bennett | Bob Novy & Jan Froelich |
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| Larry Hartzke | Mary Trewartha |
| John Hess | Susan Trudell |
| Margaret Jones & David Linton | Marta Voytovich & Laurie Gauper |
| David Kopitzke & Paul Klawiter | Doug White & Gayle Alexander |
| Anonymous | |

DRIFTLESS

Driftless Area
Land Conservancy

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UPCOMING EVENTS

www.driftlessconservancy.org



Driftless Trail workday - Angie Buelow

We're excited to have you join us out in the Driftless! Please register for these free events at www.driftlessconservancy.org/events.

25TH ANNIVERSARY SPRING SOCIAL

May 1st | 3pm - 6pm | Wintergreen, 5320 County Rd C,
Spring Green, WI 53588

For 25 years, your support has helped DALC grow, thrive, and make a lasting impact in our beloved Driftless. Now, it's time to celebrate you—our incredible community—at a special Spring Social in your honor!

We are excited to be able to gather at Wintergreen, a high-priority conservation opportunity along the beautiful Lower Wisconsin River. Come as you are and enjoy delicious appetizers and refreshments as we journey through DALC's past, present, and future in this stunning natural setting.

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. This year's theme is citizen science, and will include topics like wildlife monitoring, invasive plants, water quality, dark skies, and other aspects of the natural world on private lands. All are welcome to attend.

ALL-DAY DRIFTLESS TRAIL WORKDAYS

May 2nd & May 3rd | 9am - 4pm | Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center, Spring Green

To accelerate our work on the Welsh Hills ridge trail on the Taliesin property, Willie Bittner from Great Lakes Trailbuilders will lead two full-day work days. Come for all or part of these days. You will learn a lot about trail building and be rewarded with beautiful views, fun conversation, and pride in helping to build this impressive trail. No prior experience? No problem! We provide tools and training.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Ongoing | Driftless Trail and DALC nature preserves

Join in at monthly volunteer workdays in Argyle, Belleville, Mineral Point, and various Driftless Trail sites. Projects include habitat restoration, invasive species management, trash cleanup, trail maintenance, and more. Come enjoy the outdoors and make a difference!

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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