

Driftless

FALL/WINTER 2018

A Newsletter from the Driftless Area Land Conservancy



“Whenever I have found myself stuck in the ways I relate to things, I return to nature. It is my principal teacher, and I try to open my whole being to what it has to say.” – Wynn Bullock

Trails for Health

Whether enjoying a morning run on a favorite trail or sitting back and admiring the beauty of a local park, access to parks and trails boosts our physical, emotional and mental health. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) too few of us have access to trails and outdoor spaces. However, thanks to your amazing support, together we're changing that.

The Conservancy's mission speaks to connecting people to the land and to one another. With support from folks like you, we're protecting unique natural lands and developing trails near places where people live. We're connecting kids and communities to opportunities to improve health and mental well-being, and creating connections to the natural world that last a lifetime.



Dave Clutter
Executive Director
dave@driftlessconservancy.org

Watching my kids run excitedly on trails and in parks, exploring, discovering, is one of my absolute favorite things to do – and theirs too! No electronics, no distractions, just fresh air and wonder around every corner. In partnership with you, we intend to bring these types of experiences to kids, families and communities alike.

Thank you for making our work possible, and for creating a brighter more hopeful future.



Farming for the Future

Lafayette County farmer John Deetz recently wrote that he was grateful for "the unique opportunity to farm the same land that my ancestors farmed about 160 years ago." This land, 239 rolling acres near the Pecatonica River, is now permanently protected by a conservation easement, thanks to John's commitment to sustainable farming practices.

John credits his father, William Deetz, as his mentor in adopting sustainable agricultural practices. William Deetz was the first farmer in Lafayette County to adopt contour strips in the early 1940's.

To "continue my father's legacy of soil conservation," John maintained the contour strips and added conservation techniques of his own, including no-till practices and the use of cover crops. These techniques are now written into the language of the conservation easement, ensuring that the Deetz family legacy of soil conservation will be continued by future stewards of this farm.

Driftless is honored to partner with farmers like the Deetz family, who work every day to "make the land and soil better."



Deetz Farm

"A life-long devotion to soil conservation and soil building management."



Driftless Area
Land Conservancy
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Cover Photo: Melissa Roelli

Is a conservation easement right for you? Give Dave Clutter a call at 608.692.2153 for a confidential discussion.

Rusty Patched Bumble Bees were listed as an endangered species in January 2017. You can help by:

- Planting native flowers. Rusty patched bumble bees and other native bees use a wide variety of native flowers. Some of their favorites include Purple Prairie Clover, Beebalm (Wild Bergamot), Showy Goldenrod and New England Aster
- Join the Wisconsin Bumble Bee Brigade. This citizen science project relies on volunteer scientists to photograph and report sightings of Wisconsin's bumble bees.
- Support grassland conservation. The rusty patched bumble bee is a tallgrass prairie species. Your support of organizations that are working to protect and restore prairie habitat supports rusty patched bumble bees and dozens of other grassland species.



Passionate for Pollinators

Pollinators have been on the receiving end of a lot of attention and conservation effort in recent years, and for good reason – these species provide critical ecosystem services but are in real trouble throughout much of their range.

Thanks to your support, Driftless Area Land Conservancy (DALC) is actively involved in a number of projects that directly benefit our native bees, butterflies and other pollinators.

Monarch Citizen Science

This fall, Driftless Area Land Conservancy volunteers caught, tagged, and released 72 monarchs. This citizen science project has contributed substantially to our scientific understanding of the amazing migration that monarch butterflies undergo each fall. Plus, it is just plain fun! Stay tuned to learn if any of the butterflies we tagged in Dodgeville will be found in the overwintering colonies in Mexico.

Habitat Plantings

Habitat restoration is a critical component of the recovery efforts for monarchs, rusty patched bumble bees and other pollinators. This year on our conservation sites, DALC planted 9.5 acres

of new prairie in Iowa County, and completed site preparation on another 8 acres in Lafayette County, which will be planted this winter. These efforts are part of a larger collaboration with area landowners, our Southwest Grassland partners, and the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to plant 1,650 acres of pollinator-friendly habitat in the coming year.

Solar

DALC is pioneering new ways for land trusts to grow their impact by partnering with renewable energy. With solar development increasingly poised to contribute to our energy future, we see a real opportunity to guide solar projects towards practices that maximize conservation benefits.

By planting native, pollinator-friendly seed mixes under the panels these benefits include building soil, reducing nutrient run off, and providing habitat for birds, bees and butterflies, all while generating local renewable energy.

We envision a future where our energy is locally produced in a landscape dotted with native flowers and abuzz with pollinators.



Driftless Area Land Conservancy is actively involved in a number of projects that directly benefit our native bees, butterflies and other pollinators.

If you would like to get your school involved in nature based activities, please contact Emily Benz at 608.930.3252 or emily@driftlessconservancy.org

Together by Cindy Becker

CHC Update:

Now, more than ever, YOUR voice can be heard in opposition to the massive Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line being proposed for Southwest Wisconsin.

The application has been deemed complete and public input sessions have begun to draft state and federal environmental impact statements.

Submit your comments, write letters to your legislators and continue outreach in your community.

Along with our partners at Driftless Defenders, the Western Dane Preservation Campaign and through legal support from the Environmental Law and Policy Center, we are optimistic about stopping these unneeded lines.

Please go to our website to find updated details each week on how you can get involved. www.ProtectTheDriftless.com

Questions? Contact Chuck Tennessen at charles@driftlessconservancy.org

THAT TREE

**Has withstood Flood.
Insects.
Lost limbs.
Hollow centers.
Change.**

THAT TREE

**Has tolerated Hoofs.
Tractors.
Swing chains.
Torn roots.
Open wounds.**

THAT TREE

**Deserves To stand tall.
To grow old.
To hold another swing.
To feed another squirrel.
To nest another owl.
To live its life,
To its natural end.**

THAT TREE

**I gaze into its vast web of life
And I am grateful
For its strength.
Its resilience.
Its place.
Its presence.
I stand in solidarity with**

THAT TREE.

Dedicated to all the communities, trees, prairies and wetlands we stand for in this fight against the towers.

The Driftless Through Your Lens

Part of what makes the Driftless Area so special is the diversity of our communities, landscapes and wildlife. Opportunities for captivating photographs are endless through the abundant natural beauty and historic farmlands and townships that define our region. Photography is a great tool for telling stories of the Driftless experience—and we want to share your photos.

Moving forward, “The Driftless Through Your Lens” will be a feature of each newsletter where we highlight photos from people like you in our Driftless communities. Whether you are an avid photographer or you just like to snap the occasional photo with your phone, we want to share your wildlife encounters, epic landscape shots or any other images that capture your connection to the Driftless Area.

Once we have collected enough photos, we will have a photo contest where you will be able to vote for your favorite image. Of course, a photo contest is secondary to the main point of this feature: to inspire and engage one another through the power of photography, and to have fun doing so!

If you would like to share your photo(s), please email scott@driftlessconservancy.org along with a brief description. We look forward to sharing your experiences, encounters and perspectives of our Driftless home.

Disclaimer: If your photo(s) include people, be sure to get consent before sharing.



We want to share your wildlife encounters, epic landscape shots or any other images that capture your connection to the Driftless Area

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 habitats 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 interest in joining our Legacy Society or have already included DALC in your estate plan, please let us know by contacting David Clutter at **608.930.3252** or email dave@driftlessconservancy.org We value such a profound commitment to our mission and would appreciate the opportunity to thank you in your lifetime.

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

Driftless Legacy Society Members

- Anne Bachner
- Helen Boley
- David Kopitzke & Paul Klawiter
- Ted Ross & Kathleen Ayres
- Roland Sardeson
- Ellyn Satter
- Mary Trewartha
- Susan Trudell
- Mike & Susan Van Sicklen
- Marta Voytovich & Laurie Gauper

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Driftless

Driftless Area Land Conservancy

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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 to improve people's lives by connecting them to the land and to each other.

Announcements

www.driftlessconservancy.org



Driftless Holiday Member Party

206 S. Iowa St. | Dodgeville, WI
December 6th, DALC Office – 5-7PM

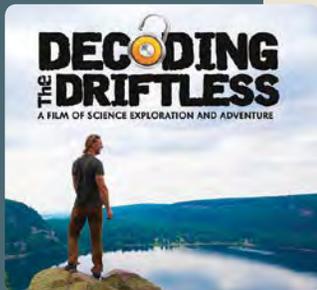
Conservancy members are invited to join DALC staff and board members for holiday fun and light refreshments at our Dodgeville office. Bring your good cheer (required) and wear your best ugly sweater (optional)!



Explore Erickson

Erickson Conservation Area | Argyle, WI

Don't let the frigid weather stop you-winter is an excellent time of year to visit Erickson Conservation Area. Come hike, snowshoe or ski the trails to experience a dazzling winter wonderland, check out the updated kiosk, and be on the lookout for animal tracks. Park on the side of Highway 78 as vehicle access to Legion Community Park is restricted during the winter months.



Decoding the Driftless

Be sure to keep your eyes peeled for showings of "Decoding the Driftless", the follow-up to the critically-acclaimed "Mysteries of the Driftless." The film provides wonderful and captivating insights into what makes the Driftless Area so special. Check out [http://www.sustainabledriftless.org/](http://www.sustainabledriftless.org) for more information.

For more details on these & other events, stay tuned to our:

WEBSITE: DRIFTLESSCONSERVANCY.ORG

FACEBOOK: FACEBOOK.COM/DRIFTLESSCONSERVANCY

CALL: 608.930.3252



Want to stay up to date with the latest Driftless news?

Stay in the know... Sign up for *Discover Driftless* and get the latest on local conservation news, programs and issues. This free eNews will come just once a month, so don't worry, we won't flood your inbox. Visit www.driftlessconservancy.org to register today. Also, please share your thoughts and see what we're up to by liking us on Facebook! (www.facebook.com/driftlessconservancy)

Wisconsin's 2017 Land Trust of the Year



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

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