

Driftless

FALL 2016

A Newsletter from the Driftless Area Land Conservancy



*“Autumn is
a second spring
when every leaf
is a flower”*

– Albert Camus

Nature's Constant: Peace, Solace and Joy.

In a world that is rapidly changing, there is one thing that remains constant – nature's ability to offer peace, solace and joy.

Here at Driftless – we are protecting some of the most beautiful, diverse, and important natural and agricultural lands in the world and we are creating spaces for people from all walks of life to come together and engage in nature's vast wonder.

As we look forward, it is clear that protecting the natural world is one of the most important gifts that we can pass on to our family, friends, and to the generations that follow. We hope that you will join us on this path!




Dave Clutter
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Driftless Area Land Conservancy

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A Path Forward: *Legacy at Lowery Creek*

According to world renowned Harvard biologist and "father of biodiversity" E.O. Wilson, "Nature holds the key to our aesthetic, intellectual, cognitive and even spiritual satisfaction," a sentiment that Ted Ross holds dear.

Earlier this year Ted created a land legacy that protects one of the Driftless Area's highest quality brook trout streams, on land considered by many to be one of the most beautiful sites in all of Iowa County.

Ted also created the first link in Driftless Area Land Conservancy's proposed Driftless Trail – a 50+ mile backpacking trail that will link Blue Mounds, Governor Dodge and Tower Hill State Parks.

"It gives me a great sense of satisfaction to know this land will be protected," Ted shared while walking his land. We're quite confident that E.O. Wilson would have approved.

"Nature holds the key to our aesthetic, intellectual, cognitive and even spiritual satisfaction."



Photos by Daniel Libby

Would you like to leave a lasting legacy in the Driftless Area? Contact David Clutter at dave@driftlessconservancy.org to learn how you too can provide opportunities for future generations to enjoy and care for this land.

"It was such an awesome opportunity to have Sarah come to our classroom and teach about nature!"

A Chance to Encounter Nature: Nature's Headstart

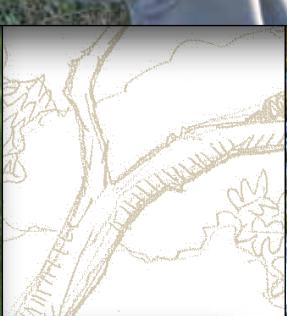
There is nothing quite like shuffling through fallen leaves for the first time in the fall. The mellow sunlight on vibrant autumn colors beckons everyone outside to experience the fanfare and pageantry of the season. For the children enrolled in Iowa Grant's Head Start Program, the change in seasons presented an opportunity to explore and learn in a way they hadn't before.

Rather than playing on the school's playground, twelve students, who were all ages 3-4, had a chance to encounter nature on the school's property. They talked about the change of seasons, collected leaves and needles, and made their own bracelets. The kids asked many questions and were excited to share their creations.



While everyone was comparing their leaf bracelets one student exclaimed, "I can do this at home!"

Sarah Pearce, DALC's Educational Programs Coordinator, is integrating the natural world into Head Start classrooms, curriculum, and play spaces, to enhance the students' development and learning. Ultimately, we hope to improve the lives of underserved children in our service area and help them develop an interest in nature at a young age.



Students searching for the perfect leaf.

If you would like to learn more about this program or get your school involved please contact Sarah Pearce at

sarah@driftlessconservancy.org



LANDMARKS

The Woods

Sunday morning, the path
winds beneath bare branches
of aspen, oak, elm, linden.

My sons follow, trusting
I'll bend back brambles,
cast blocking limbs aside.

Wide-eyed, silent,
they see these five acres of woods
on Grandpa's farm
as wilderness.

I want to tell them-
value nothing more
than you value these woods.

Its floor of acorns and leaves.
Its sky of arched trees.

But instead, only promise
to walk often
in sacred procession,

visitors, explorers, seekers
in this holy land
of rabbit, squirrel, deer and fox.

— Daniel Smith

“Value nothing more than you value these woods.”

*The
Boettchers'
are
harnessing
wind and
solar power
to reduce
their carbon
foot print
and save
money.*



Driftless Legacy Members

Anne Bachner
Helen Boley
David Kopitzke
Ellyn Satter
Mary Trewartha
Susan Trudell
Ted Ross

Living Off The Grid: *And Protecting the Land for Generations to Come*

Roger and Janice Boettcher were searching for a place where they could disconnect from the grid and connect with nature. Not only have they found that special place they have protected it with the Driftless Area Land Conservancy.

Roger, a science teacher with the Fennimore School District, knew that this property with its variety of plants and wildlife was worth preserving. "We have many great natural features and habitats on the property. There are rock outcroppings open grasslands, oak-savanna, and a patch of relict yellow birch. We even have the tallest hickory I have ever seen!"

Roger is passionate about sharing his property with his students through fieldtrips, and teaches them just how unique and special this part of the Driftless Area is. "This is the perfect classroom for our students to experience and learn about the wildlife and critical habitats here in Southwest Wisconsin."

In addition to protecting and sharing their land, which is in Iowa County, the Boettchers are harnessing wind and solar power to reduce their carbon foot print and save money. "We are able to generate enough of our own energy here to power our home as well as our electric car" said Roger. "People ask us, how long will it take to pay off the cost of the solar panels and wind turbine?" laughed Janice, "We ask, how long will it take them to finish paying their energy bills?"



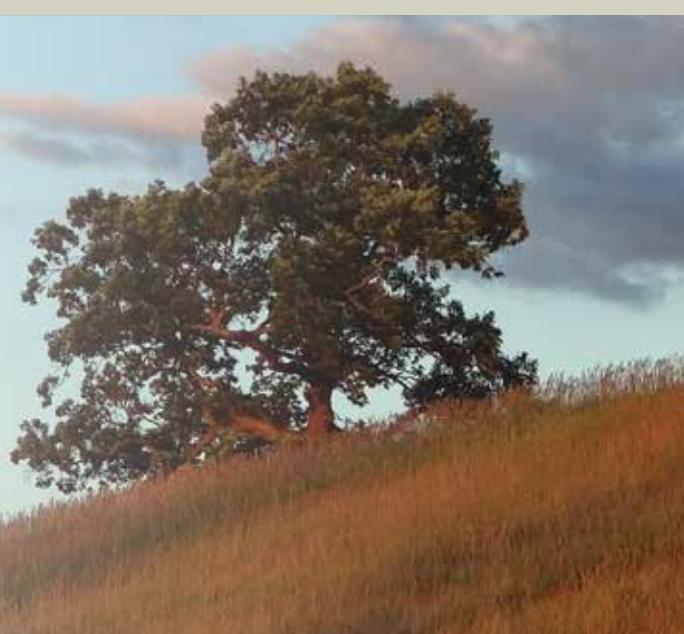
Roger and Janice with their Solar Panels and Wind Turbine.

Daniel Libby

If you would like to learn more about protecting the land that is special to you please contact Dave Clutter at dave@driftlessconservancy.org

Driftless Legacy Society

If you have included a bequest to the Conservancy as part of 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.



Saving Monarchs

Driftless Landowners Can Make a Difference

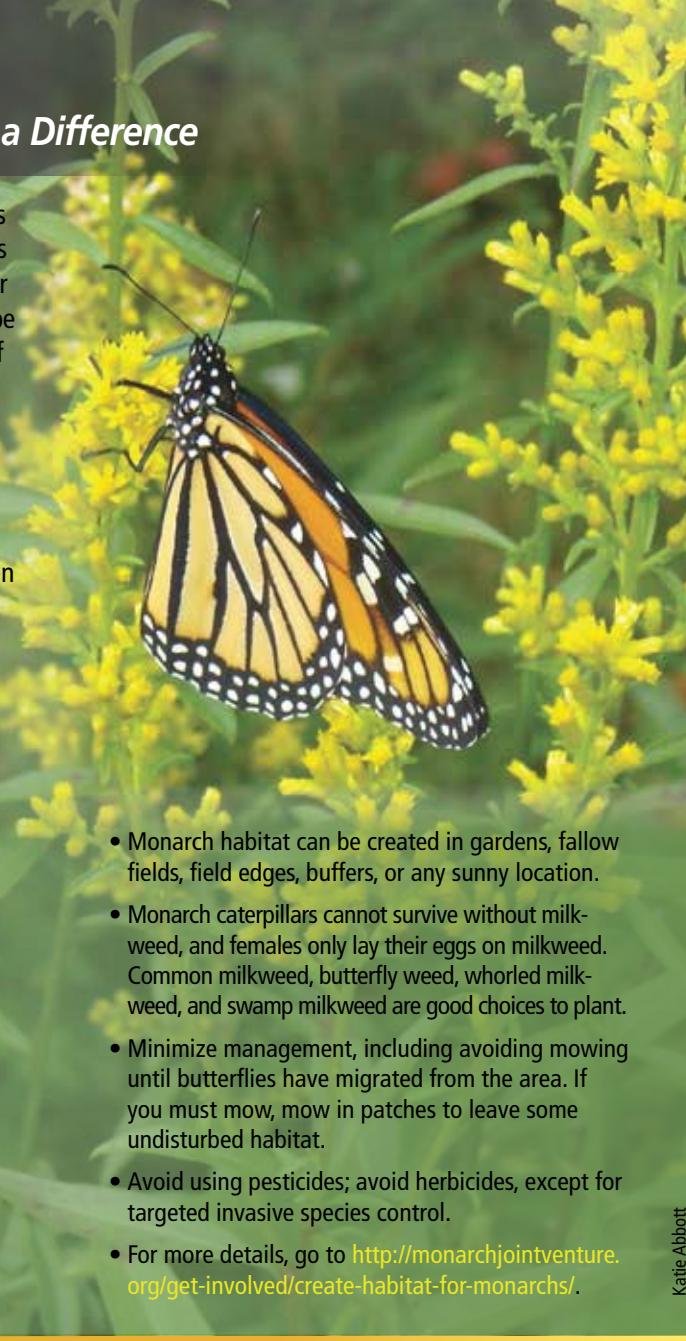
Did you see many Monarch butterflies early this fall as they made their journey south? Perhaps you saw them clustered together on a pine tree or feeding on a mix of wildflowers in a prairie. Maybe you spotted a single Monarch drifting along one of the final warm breezes of the season.

Monarchs, an important pollinator species and a beautiful part of the Driftless Landscape, are declining throughout North America due to loss of habitat, climate change and loss of milkweed populations. Unless we act now our grand children and great grandchildren may not be able to see these iconic creatures.

That is why Driftless Area Land Conservancy, in collaboration with area landowners and our Southwest Grasslands Stream Conservation Area partners will be increasing monarch habitat on 1000's of acres in Southwest Wisconsin. Much of this work is due to a generous grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to support monarch butterfly recovery.

Here are a few tips that you can use to support monarch butterfly recovery.

- Adult monarchs require nectar from non-milkweed flowers to gain energy for spring and summer reproduction and fall migration. Plant native flowers with different bloom times to ensure a stable food source for butterflies. This includes species like goldenrods, blazing stars, wild bergamot, pale purple coneflower, and New England aster.



- Monarch habitat can be created in gardens, fallow fields, field edges, buffers, or any sunny location.
- Monarch caterpillars cannot survive without milkweed, and females only lay their eggs on milkweed. Common milkweed, butterfly weed, whorled milkweed, and swamp milkweed are good choices to plant.
- Minimize management, including avoiding mowing until butterflies have migrated from the area. If you must mow, mow in patches to leave some undisturbed habitat.
- Avoid using pesticides; avoid herbicides, except for targeted invasive species control.
- For more details, go to <http://monarchjointventure.org/get-involved/create-habitat-for-monarchs/>.

Katie Abbott

Our goal is to assist land owners in improving habitat for monarchs and other pollinators on private and non-profit-owned land.

If you would like to enhance your land with pollinator plants, please let us know by contacting Katie Abbot at katie@driftlessconservancy.org.

Thank you to our Foundation and Corporate Partners!



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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 Party

DALC Office, Dodgeville, WI

Thursday, December 8th, 5:00-7:00

The holidays are just around the corner and we want to take a moment to thank you for all you do for conservation. Join us for appetizers and drinks at our office at 206 S. Iowa St. in Dodgeville for an end of year celebration. Let's eat, drink, and be merry! We'll also send you off with gift of appreciation.



Winter Gathering at Erickson

Erickson Conservation Area, Argyle WI

Saturday, February 11th, 2:00 – 4:00

Bring your sharpened skates and a friend for an afternoon of ice-skating on the slough at Erickson! The kids can learn to identify animal tracks in the snow or you can get your skis and snowshoes on and take a guided tour of the property. Warm up afterwards with some hot chocolate!



End of Winter Workday

Erickson Conservation Area, Argyle WI

Date to TBD

Are you looking to get involved in a great community project?

Fantastic company and fresh air can make outside work into a party!

Join us for a burn or to clear brush at the Erickson Conservation Area.

Please bring water, work gloves, and loppers if you have them.

Please watch our website and Facebook page for details.

For more details on
these & other events,
stay tuned to our website:
www.driftlessconservancy.org

FACEBOOK WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/

DRIFTLESSCONSERVANCY

CALL 608.930.3252

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