



New boardwalk into the wetland

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Thor Rasmussen

This has been a banner year for the Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy. Through the work of Lions Bill Ide, Jr., of Burlington and Pete Oehman of Williams Bay along with the joint efforts of Lions, Lioness, and Leo clubs of District 27-A1, 350 feet of Phase 1 of the accessible boardwalk through the wetlands was completed.

- Construction was begun on May 2 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The boardwalk was officially dedicated on August 8 by 27-A1 District Governor Dick Schwall, East Troy. The major financial contributor was the Williams Bay Lions Club.

- Kari Santy and Corbin Hanson were our two summer interns who spent their time identifying and cataloging species of plants in the Conservancy. They also worked on general maintenance of the grounds. Their work was very appreciated.

- The KNC Commission worked with the Southwick Creek Watershed Advisory Committee, attended the two-day Natural Areas Management Planning Conference at Carroll College and also a DNR Hazard Tree Assessment Workshop.

- Our first three volunteer days of working in the Conservancy were held this fall.

In 1998 we:

1. Constructed a 350 foot boardwalk in the wetland.
2. Completed and planted flower boxes surrounding the shelter.
3. Continued botanical survey of KNC species.
4. Conducted the Educator's Environmental Workshop
5. Maintained four miles of trails.

In 1999 we plan to:

1. Begin Phase II of accessible boardwalk.
2. Plant wildflower garden east of the shelter
3. Complete the entrance project with installation of a gravel walk surrounding the planters.
4. Promote the growth of native species through management.
5. Continue to remove invasive species.

Kishwauketoe is the Potawatomi Indian term for "sparkling water". This natural area has been established for the enjoyment of all. The Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy (KNC) has more than four miles of trails that will take you through many habitats and plant communities. The Conservancy is open every day from dawn to dusk. Please come to enjoy the beauty of this very special place.

Dedicated July, 1990

To the children of tomorrow:

"Theirs is the dower of bird and of flower and theirs is the earth and the sky."



Students from Williams Bay High School clear brush along Southwick Creek Trail on a Volunteer Day.

Friends

Dave Everhart

The FRIENDS OF

KISHWAUKETOE, LTD., is the fund-raising cousin of the Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy (KNC). The group consists of seven members, all of whom live around Geneva Lake and are committed to helping make the Conservancy a success.

We are really happy with the progress that was made this past year. Thanks to the hard work of the Commission, a number of faithful volunteers and the increasing financial support of people like you, the Conservancy is becoming more user-friendly all the time!

We are also pleased that all of our progress has been done at no expense to the Village of Williams Bay taxpayers. That has been our goal and will continue to be. The Village does provide us with a great deal of support through the use of equipment and staff for which we are thankful.

We continue to need your financial help. Please fill out the attached form and be a Kishwaukee supporter!

Meet Our New Board Member

Our new Board member is Joshua Skolnick. He lives with his wife, Traci, and their two young children in Williams Bay. Josh has 10 years of experience with the management of natural areas in the upper midwest and on the east coast. At present, he is a restoration ecologist with the Lake County Preserve District in Illinois.



Kishwaukee Curriculum Workshop

Kendra Johncock

Twenty K-12 educators including two Kishwaukee interns, met on August 13 and 14, 1998 to learn about the wetland, prairie and forest ecosystems found in the Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy. The workshop was sponsored by Wisconsin Electric and presented by George Williams • Lake Geneva Campus of Aurora University and the Kishwaukee Commission.

The enthusiastic response of the educators attending the workshop lead to many groups using the Conservancy this fall. Many of the schools have led multiple hikes for different grades. Among the groups using the Conservancy are Williams Bay Elementary, Wisconsin School for the Deaf, St. Francis de Sales, Delavan Christian School and the George Williams Resident Outdoor Education and Outreach programs. All of these groups have benefited tremendously from the efforts of the Village Board that purchased the property and saved it from development.

Wisconsin Electric also provided an additional grant to help the George Williams Campus start a Wisconsin Water Education Resource Center site. The center operates through the Environmental Outreach program and rents water testing equipment to area teachers for use with their students. The Wisconsin Electric grant allowed the Water Education Resource Center to purchase a soil chemical test kit and a ground water demonstration module.

The workshops were conducted by Kendra Johncock and Mary King and were available for graduate credit. Assisting in the planning were Ray Loyd and Lois Morava, from the KNC and Janice Melnik, Wisconsin Electric representative.



Mary King, instructor of the Curriculum Workshop, describes the leaf structure of wild sunflowers to her class.

Summer Projects

Dick Bowman

Construction of the planter boxes around the shelter on Elkhorn Road begun in 1997 were completed this past summer with the determination and assistance of Ed Behr.

KNC was very fortunate to have excellent help from our interns this summer. Kari Santy, an Environmental Science and Biology graduate of UW Green Bay, along with Corbin Hanson, a Biology graduate of UW Parkside, were this summer's interns.

They continued the biological survey of the Conservancy begun in 1995. The emphasis of their work centered on specific quadrants to compare growth and development of native plants. They also made pressings of plant species with identifying information for permanent records.



Phase II

Alice Morava

The Kishwaukee Lions Club Accessible Boardwalk Project will "kick off" phase II in Spring 1999. It will begin at the high grounds called a "shrub carr" and proceed in a northerly direction for 250 feet. The boardwalk will allow accessibility to the very heart of the Conservancy for all visitors.

The undergrowth area supports many species of songbirds and a diverse population of plant life. The plan is to install a turnaround at the end of the path.

The generosity of the Lions, Lionesses and Leos of 27-A1 will make this project possible.

Harvest Moon Bonfire

Guri Henderson

Our eighth annual KNC Harvest Moon Bonfire was held on October 2, a very rainy evening. Signs were hastily prepared and posted, directing attendees to the Lion's Fieldhouse where all the makings for a hot dog roast were served including popcorn, donuts, caramel candies, apples, hot chocolate and cider. This year's food was donated by George Williams • Lake Geneva Campus and served free of charge.

The weather did not hinder attendance or the evening's success. DJ music provided the entertainment.

The Harvest Moon Bonfire is a traditional event filled with music, food and fun. The bonfire is held in the Conservancy on the closest Friday evening to September's full moon. Torch lit trail walks, good food and great company always make for a memorable evening with several hundred people attending the event. Please plan to join us in 1999.

Guided Walks

Seasonal, guided walks in the KNC are listed in the local papers, library, radio station, post office and municipal bulletin boards.

Trail maps for self-guided tours are available in the Conservancy and at the Village Hall.

1998 Volunteer Days

Lois Morava

Our first three scheduled VOLUNTEER DAYS were Saturdays, October 10 and 31 and November 14 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Fifty-one volunteers (34 Williams Bay School students and 16 adults) worked under KNC supervision.

An area east of the shelter was cleared of box elder and buckthorn trees. The entrance was made more visible and this change will make parking accessible for visitors. Dead and unsightly trees were also removed from the Southwick Creek Trail.

Thanks to Daniel Bice, principal of Williams Bay High School, for his cooperation and also to George Morava with his trusty chain saw.

We are truly grateful to the young students who came as willing, polite and diligent workers with the spirit of community volunteerism.



August 8, 1998 Lions Boardwalk Dedication (L to R)

Pete Regan, past district governor 27-A1; Tony Dorangrichia, 1998-1999 Vice-District Governor; Richard Schwall, 1998-1999 District Governor; Norma Schwall; Hal Hoxie, Williams Bay Lions Club; Pete Oehman, Environmental Trail Chair

Shawn Kelly Leaves Board

Shawn Kelly resigned from the KNC board this fall due to teaching full time in the Landscape Architecture Department of UW Madison, operating his own business and serving in this centennial year as president of the Wisconsin chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects.

The KNC commissioners and Friends are deeply indebted to Shawn for his expertise, advice and wonderful designs of the entrance to the KNC and planter boxes filled with native species that surround the shelter.



Summer 1998 (L to R)

Intern Kari Santy, Ed Behr, Intern Corbin Hanson, Manager, Dick Bowman

Help

Alice J. Morava

While so frequently motoring on Geneva Street through the Village of Williams Bay, with the Bay Beach to the south and the Conservancy to the north, I am captivated with the beauty of my town. Each season brings a unique "look". The pride and joy I experience from the foresight of my colleagues and neighbors whose courage brought this to be can often be overwhelming. We "locals" make this little jaunt along the beach several times daily. Others passing through may sometimes take its beauty for granted.

Just imagine the numbers of folks who frequent our town for very special reasons and are able to experience the beauty of Kishwaukee. Visitors come to Williams Bay for many reasons—cultural events, Elderhostels at the George Williams Campus, seminars and retreats at Conference Point, students and professors of astronomy at the Yerkes Observatory and the friends and neighbors threaded throughout our community who are seasonal residents.

Do you feel the joy in knowing that Kishwaukee really belongs to all of us? If you do, please join the work of recovery and restoration with a donation to the Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy or the "Kish" as it is affectionately known.

KNC Commission

Thor Rasmussen, Chairman
Dr. William B. Duncan, Harold Friestad,
Guri Henderson, D. Raymond Loyd,
Lois Morava, Joshua Skolnick

Friends of Kishwaukee, Ltd.
David Everhart, President
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Alice J. Morava, Thor Rasmussen

FRIENDS of Kishwaukee, Ltd.

To become a FRIENDS supporter, please complete this form and return to KNC PO Box 580, Williams Bay, WI 53191. All contributions are tax deductible. Kishwaukee is a not-for-profit organization with a 501(c)(3) status. Please make checks payable:

FRIENDS of Kishwaukee, Ltd.

Name: _____

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- Family Membership - \$25.00/year
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 Donor - \$100.00/year
 Patron - \$500.00/year

I wish to volunteer at
Kishwaukee Conservancy:

Special Thanks

Thank you to Dr. Bill Duncan of George Williams • Lake Geneva, for providing the time and resources of his staff to produce this newsletter.

