



*Quiet stroll on a summer day along Southwick Creek*

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 flower  
and theirs is the  
earth and sky."*



## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Thor Rasmussen

Next year the Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy (KNC) will celebrate its 10th anniversary. Thanks to the many public spirited residents and organizations in our community, we have a notable list of accomplishments.

The KNC is very grateful for all the generous support given to us by:

- Lake Geneva Garden Club
- Williams Bay Lions Club
- Lions District 27 A1
- WFWC Williams Bay Women's Community Club
- Wisconsin Electric Company
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Stewardship Fund
- Geneva Lake Association
- The many personal donations from community members

### 1999 KNC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This year we:

- Installed a crushed limestone driveway from HWY 67 to the shelter, that includes two accessible parking spaces.
- Removed stumps and roto-tilled the fields east and south of the shelter and planted rye grass to hold soil.
- Installed a new underground electric line to the shelter.
- Repaired the Southwick Creek bridge.
- Removed invasive species shrubs and small trees.

### NEXT YEAR KNC PLANS TO:

- Finish planting the entrance garden using native wildflowers and shrubs.
- Create an arboretum with native trees in an open field on Harris Road and have each species marked for identification.
- Look into feasibility of a one-acre wildlife pond.
- Improve walking trails.
- Continue removal of unwanted non-native trees and shrubs.
- Extend the boardwalk toward the lake trail.



*Thor Rasmussen with the interns, Sara Fleck and Kim Long, check bluebird boxes for nests.*

## VOLUNTEER DAYS

From Lois Morava

VOLUNTEER DAYS enthusiasm continued in 1999 with the majority of our volunteers being Williams Bay junior and senior high school students along with perennial volunteers, Debbie and David Gasser. The Gassers are former Williams Bay residents who give time to the Conservancy each year.

One Saturday morning each month from 9:00 am to 11:00 am, February through November, volunteers cut box elder and buckthorn along Geneva Street. They also removed garlic mustard and brush along trails as well as stumps and rocks from areas east and south of the shelter. This year they planted rye grass in preparation for the wild-flower gardens to be planted next spring.

Williams Bay High School principal, Daniel Bice, organized student volunteers from the high school. These hard working young people brought enthusiasm to vigorous work and made a positive difference at the Conservancy. We thank them for their efforts and selfless attitudes.

Announcements of the Saturday VOLUNTEER DAYS are published in area papers "Community Events" sections. We welcome all volunteers.

## KNC TRINIA

Fallen trees are allowed to decay naturally in the woods to provide habitat for small animals and fertilizer for other plants.

## DR. DUNCAN LEAVES BOARD

Due to increased responsibilities focusing on the master plan for the George Williams • Lake Geneva Campus of Aurora University, Dr. Bill Duncan found it necessary to resign from the KNC Commission. KNC Commissioners and FRIENDS deeply appreciate Bill's guidance, counsel and generosity during his years on the board.

## NEW BOARD MEMBER

The newest member of the KNC Board is Richard Bowman. Dick helped manage the KNC before becoming a commissioner. He is also president of the Lakeland Audubon Society and a member of the board of directors of the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency. Pursuing his love of sailing, Dick runs the keel boat races on Lake Geneva.



*Winter is a spectacular time at Kishwauketo.*



*Volunteers, Matt Vice, Chris Byrnes, Heidi Stocking and Greg Choyce remove buckthorn during one of the VOLUNTEER DAYS.*

## SUMMER INTERNS

From Lois Morava

Each summer, the KNC hires two college students to work as interns. Sara Fleck, a senior at UW Plattville and Kim Long, a senior at UW Eau Claire, were the 1999 interns.

Their schedule included maintaining the four miles of trails, watering and weeding the entrance garden, water sealing the Observation Tower and restoring the firebreak trail after the new water supply line was installed.

While creating a new trail, Sara and Kim hoisted balloons so they could see each other in the thick, tall grass. They identified all the species in the entrance planters with permanent markers.



## HARVEST MOON FESTIVAL

From Guri Henderson

Where can you enjoy an evening picnic, surrounded by 231 acres of natural beauty, while cozying up to a warming fire as you watch the spectacular harvest moon rise?

The Kishwaukee Conservancy Commission hosted its 9th annual Harvest Moon Bonfire on Friday, September 24. More than 200 area residents attended the event that included a bonfire, picnic dinner and sunset tours through the Conservancy.

Guests of the Conservancy dined on hot dogs, cheese and crackers, donuts, caramel apples and roasted marshmallows. Food for the event was donated by the George Williams • Lake Geneva Campus.

Musical entertainment for the evening was provided through the courtesy of Wisconsin Electric Co.

If you have never come to the Harvest Moon Bonfire, mark your calendar for next year. The event will take place on the Conservancy grounds on Friday, September 15, 2000. Help us celebrate our 10th annual bonfire with an evening of music, food and fun.

## FRIENDS UPDATE

From David Everhart

Again this year, FRIENDS of Kishwaukee, Ltd., has provided very necessary fundraising support for the operation and special projects of the Conservancy. We are pleased with all of the progress that has been made, and we look forward to supporting the continued growth and development of this terrific community resource.

An important objective of FRIENDS of Kishwaukee is to accomplish all of this at no expense to the taxpayers of Williams Bay. We have been able to do that since the founding of the Conservancy ten years ago. We look forward to continuing that achievement with your help. The Village of Williams Bay does provide us with support through use of Village equipment and staff, for which we are grateful.

A growing number of organizations and agencies have made significant contributions to the Conservancy this year. They are listed in the Report of the Chairman and we are very grateful for both their personal and financial support.

But---we are also very dependent on the continued support of "people like you". All of the volunteer time and gifts that you have given are essential to the Conservancy's good health. We thank you for your past help and look forward to the future with confidence.

*(R) Outdoor Education class from George Williams • Lake Geneva Campus on a class outing to the Conservancy.*

## HAVE YOU BEEN TO KISHWAUKETOE LATELY?

From Kendra Johncock

The Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy is a wonderful resource to the residents of Williams Bay, and serves as a great teaching tool for groups from George Williams Aurora University. Over 1,000 students in the Resident Outdoor Education program walk the lake shore path to Kishwaukee to explore its wonders. Each small group searches for the cup plants and peers into the waters of the wetlands from the boardwalk. This fall groups were in search of the wild cucumber, which can shoot its seeds up to 20 feet.

The Environmental Outreach Program led groups from area schools, The Wisconsin School for the Deaf, Girl Scout Troops, and educators in a workshop on Aldo Leopold's "*Sand County Almanac*". All found peace, tranquillity and a connection to nature sometimes lacking in our daily lives. If you haven't been to Kishwaukee, take time for a walk on the trails or catch the view from the top of the Observation Tower.



## AN ARBORETUM

From Alice Morava

The Garden Club of America has challenged all affiliated clubs throughout the country to choose a local site for its GCA Project 2000. Kishwauketoe Conservancy has the honor of having been chosen by the Lake Geneva Garden Club as their Geneva Lake Community Service Project.

Under the auspices of the Lake Geneva Garden Club, the Kishwauketoe Arboretum will be established in the spring of 2000. The arboretum site will be in an open area adjacent to Harris Road. In celebration of the club's 80th anniversary, 80 trees will be planted.

*The Conservancy is very appreciative of the continued support and contributions of the Lake Geneva Garden Club.*

## ARE YOU INTERESTED?

From Alice Morava

On August 16, 1999, the Village of Williams Bay Board of Trustees officially approved the Comprehensive Plan of Williams Bay. Proposals for future plans for Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy are outlined within the plan. Copies of the plan can be seen at the library and Village Hall or may be purchased for \$15.00 at the Village Hall.

### 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

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



*Bulldozers clear away stumps in preparation for a wildflower garden to be planted east of the shelter.*

## FRIENDS OF KISHWAUKETOE, 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

Kishwauketoe is a not-for-profit organization with a 501(c)(3) status.

Please make checks payable to:  
**FRIENDS**  
of Kishwauketoe, Ltd.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Village/City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- Family Membership - \$25.00/year
- Individual Membership - \$15.00/year
- Sponsor - \$50.00/year
- Donor - \$100.00/year
- Patron - \$500.00/year
- I wish to volunteer at Kishwauketoe Conservancy.

## KNC COMMISSION

Thor Rasmussen, Chairman  
Richard Bowman, Harold Friestad,  
Guri Henderson, D. Raymond  
Loyd, Lois Morava, Joshua Skolnik

## FRIENDS OF KISHWAUKETOE, LTD.

David Everhart, President  
Thomas J. Cashman, Charles L.  
Colman, June Goss Freeman,  
William B. Gage, Alice J. Morava,  
Thor Rasmussen

## SPECIAL THANKS

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

