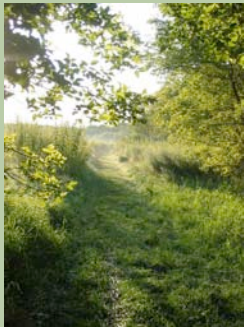


Dedicated
July, 1990
to the
children
of
tomorrow.

KISHWAUKETOE

NATURE CONSERVANCY



INTERNS HAVE A SUCCESSFUL SUMMER

Our Interns, Tamara, Eric and Ben have done a great job this summer. It is very possible that Eric will be back for a third summer in 2007, and Ben for his second summer. Tamara, Eric and Ben have included articles about their experience at KNC this summer. Without good Interns, we would never be able to keep up with the maintenance and restoration projects that we undertake each year. We also have many Board Members that put in a great deal of volunteer labor in addition to serving on the KNC Board. A very special thank you to Ed Rynko as

well. Ed, by choice, is not an appointed member of the KNC Board, but is our #1 Volunteer. Ed loves the Conservancy and puts in a great deal of time when our Interns are not on staff. We could not get the mowing and many other projects completed during the off season without Ed.

Thank you to all of you!

Harold J. Friestad ñ Chairman KNC
(Please call me at 262-245-6585 if you would like to join our volunteer staff or

WE WANT YOU! VOLUNTEER TODAY!

We continue to have our Volunteer Work Days the second Saturday of the month from 8:30 AM ñ 11:30 AM. Work projects are announced in advance at the Boardwalk entrance and main entrance off of Hwy 67. Please join us as we work on these very special restoration projects. We are also in need of funding as fuel for mowing has doubled in cost and there is also chainsaw upkeep and chemicals to purchase. Any assistance you can give us is greatly appreciated.

A VERY SPECIAL KISHWAUKETOE EVENT

On Saturday, July 29th, in 95 degree heat, we celebrated the 15th Anniversary of the Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy along with the dedication of the ***Thor Rasmussen Memorial Prairie***. This was a joint effort of the Friends of Kishwauketoe and the Kishwauketoe Board. It was a well attended event with many area representatives and Geneva Lake Area residents participating.

A bronze plaque with Thor's photo and a tribute to him was unveiled that day and can now be seen at the Southwest corner of the thirty-acre prairie. This tribute to Thor Rasmussen was for his fifteen years of dedicated service to the Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy. Thor gave so much of his time and talents.

Hello KNC members and supporters. I came back again from last summer working for the conservancy again. I appreciate the conservancy's mission in furthering the restoration of the property and allowing me to be an active manager with the mission in mind. I am planning to graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater this spring.

This is a very productive summer with 2.5 interns furthering the restoration at KNC. One of the most enjoyable projects this summer is removing the box elder and buckthorn from the Southwick creek. We are leaving the snag (dead) trees as wildlife and songbird habitat. It is evident now with the box elder gone that the cottonwood trees were likely bordering the fence line which was where the farm field was at one time. Naturally, streams would meander around with big lobes however Southwick creek is mostly a straight stream to make room for agriculture.

One success is the fact that we are able to accomplish much more now because of the new brush cutter that the conservancy purchased. Within 2.5 days Ben and I were able to cut down 22 truckloads of white and yellow sweet clover. This is quite the feat and the conservancy made a great investment with the purchase of this new tool. It can cut brush saplings up to 2" inches thick and cuts through weeds like butter.

In honor of the first chairman's service to Kishwaukee, there was a ceremony recently to dedicate the prairie in his name. His dedication to making what Kishwaukee is today will always be remembered and is a reminder to everyone on the difference they can make to leave this world a better place for future generations to enjoy. It is hard to imagine what Kishwaukee would be like with houses multiplying the landscape. Williams Bay would be a changed village. Just like the initial cost, the long term maintenance of the property requires a big monetary budget to manage weeds and promote native plants, wildlife and the recreational value of the property. Thank you to all the members that do just that.

Eric Tarman-Ramcheck

My name is Tamara Buckner and I am from Beloit, WI. I am currently attending University of Wisconsin-Whitewater where I will graduate in December with a degree in Biology emphasizing in field ecology and with a minor in environmental studies. I am interning at KNC this summer and also at Fair Meadows State Natural Area in Milton.

I have been able to put my plant courses in use by being able to identify and observe different species of plants interacting with their environment. KNC has not only been an enjoyable experience but also very educational; the very premise of an internship. I have been able to take the knowledge that I have received through my advanced education in Biology by applying it to my field experience. I have learned that no matter how strenuous my chosen profession is, I know that my work is greatly appreciated and will make a difference for future generations visiting Kishwaukee.

While working at Kishwaukee I have helped in the control of invasive species, such as garlic mustard, Canada and bull thistle, yellow and white sweet clover, wild parsnip, queen Anne's lace, buckthorn, box elder, honeysuckle, dogwood, reed canary grass, phragmite (common reed grass), and purple loosestrife. I have helped clear Southwick creek by removing box elder and buckthorn where the goal is to restore native vegetation to the creek, potentially bringing back the natural trout population. I have also been working on the Thor Rasmussen Memorial Prairie by removing harmful invasives around the perimeter of the restoration project. The largest threat since it has a thirty year viable seed bank is the yellow and white sweet clover. I have also been working on removing these invasives from around the newly planted prairie. Another important memorial project for the conservancy is the memorial nursery that I helped transplant native plants into areas of the arboretum. This included mulching and weeding annual exotic weeds.

It has been a blessing to have this experience to enhance my education and see first hand what I am not able to in the class room. I feel everyone should try and help out first hand at Kishwaukee in volunteer days or become a member for this may be one of the few areas that you may ever be able to see a restored area to show us what southern Wisconsin was once like.

Tamara Buckner



PO Box 580
Williams Bay, WI 53191



*A sight we will be
seeing soon at KNC!*

GUEST CONTRIBUTORS: SUMMER INTERNS

I have had the privilege of working for Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy over the past months and I have found it to be very rewarding and challenging. This large beautiful undeveloped block of land has many diverse areas making management complex. It is truly an excellent model of different ecosystems and I have seen many people walking and enjoying each and every one. It is hard to believe that this undeveloped land teeming with wildlife can exist in the heart of Williams Bay. Home to an abundant amount of wildlife, filtering water and giving people an area to escape and enjoy nature are just some of its many benefits that we get from this conservancy.

Over the summer we have worked on many projects throughout the property. The largest project being the planting and managing, by mowing of the 32-acre prairie. Which, in a few short years will develop into a tall grass prairie consisting of 80 different species. Holding many birds and animals, providing nesting and foraging cover for many wildlife species that we all enjoy. We have also worked on Southwick creek, trying to restore the creek and improve the aquatic habitat. This project involved removing the box elder and buckthorn next to the creek to allow light to penetrate. This has opened up the creek to sunlight, which will allow vegetation to grow and form some kind of bank structure. Making better habitat for trout to survive again in the creek. Also we are working on extending the trail along the creek and ending up at the tower. Other projects have included the removal and control of exotics such as sweet clover, garlic mustard and Canada thistle in the areas surrounding the prairie. This will be an ongoing project to stop these species from spreading to the new prairie.

It is very rewarding to observe wildlife enjoying our work in the conservancy. I have over this summer watched as turkeys, pheasants and other birds use the prairie to teach their young to forage and hunt for food. Watching the young birds every week was very enjoyable. Other wildlife such as deer, rabbits, small rodents find shelter here and I have often seen them throughout the property. Thanks to the many donations and volunteers we have accomplished a great amount this summer and I found it to be very educational. As I work on the projects and the overall maintenance of the property I am learning and understanding how important Kishwauketoe is to its plant and wildlife species as well as to the many people enjoying the miles of trails. I hope that everyone can get away and enjoy this great area and appreciate how fortunate Williams Bay is to have something like KNC in its back yard.

Ben Nelson



***FRIENDS
Of Kishwauketoe, Inc.***

To become a *FRIENDS* supporter,
complete this form and return to:

**KNC
PO BOX 580, Williams Bay, WI 53191**

*Please make checks payable to:
FRIENDS OF KISHWAUKETOE, LTD.*

All contributions are tax deductible.

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- Family Membershipó \$35/year
- Individual Membershipó \$25/year
- Sponsoró \$50-\$99
- Donoró \$100-\$499
- Patronó \$500-\$999

I wish to volunteer at Kishwauketoe Conservancy
Kishwauketoe is a not for profit organization with a 501(c)(3) status.

2006 PROJECT UPDATES:

Having received very generous contributions from the Lake Geneva Garden Club in 1995, 2005 and 2006, earmarked for our prairie restoration project, we are happy to announce that the final seeding will be done in November. The first iLí shaped section was done in May of 1995 and is doing very well. At this time of the year there is a very tall stand of Big Blue Stem. This native tall grass is one of the highest quality forage grasses on the prairie. The fifteen acres adjacent to the iLí shaped section was planted this past May and we have been mowing it since early July. We will be mowing over thirty acres of prairie for the next three or four years. This will give the native seed plants a chance to get their roots established three to four feet deep with out being overtaken by the invasive plants and seed bank in the restored prairie. It is a long process but with a lot of volunteer labor and donations, we see this as being a very beautiful restoration project, which will be enjoyed by future generations.

Our latest project is removing the invasive trees alongside Southwick Creek to allow more light in so we can reestablish native vegetation along the stream banks and in time, restore this as a prime trout stream. The new trail that is being established as we clear this area is a beautiful addition to our four mile trail system and will be a beautiful area all four seasons. The main source of water comes from the Sedge Meadow at the north end of the KNC property and just bubbles out of the ground. We are attempting to go around both the north and south edges of this sedge meadow area so we will have a fire-break for future burns. By the end of September you will be able to enjoy this new trail loop which also has a cut-off by the viewing tower.

Harold Friestad

