

Dedicated
July, 1990
to the
children of
tomorrow.



From the Chairman

2007 has been another very good year at Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy. The early spring and wet August kept us very busy as everything, including the invasive species, was generally about three weeks ahead of schedule and grew quite vigorously. We were able to plant the seeds for the third phase of the prairie project in January and after an uncertain start to the growing season, this section by late August, was also exhibiting signs of a very successful planting.

Our workload continues to increase with the maintenance of the newly planted thirty acres of prairie plus all of our new and existing projects.

We know we will have to hire additional interns in the future as well as hire Christine Register as a part time, year-around employee to help us stay focused on our work and to educate us on the best

management practices for this property. Christine is a graduate of the University of Wyoming with a degree in Agroecology and a minor in Horticulture. She works for the University of Wisconsin-Extension as the Walworth County Horticulture Educator. With Christine on our staff, we will be able to increase the educational opportunities for our interns and volunteers as well as offer new programs for both children and adults during the summer season.

Kishwaukee has really evolved into a quality nature center and we will continue to do our best to make this the nature showcase of the Geneva Lake Area Community. Please continue to enjoy the nature trails for both hiking and cross county skiing. It is your conservancy to enjoy.

Harold J. Friestad
Chairman— KNC

Southwick Creek Restoration

Beginning in 2008 we will undertake the next major step in the restoration of Southwick Creek. Utilizing a generous grant we received from the Lake Geneva Garden Club this summer, we will be able to complete several significant activities. These activities include: additional clearing along the east bank of the creek, planting native Wisconsin trees and shrubs to fill the areas where invasive species were removed.

We are also moving ahead with plans for the creek proper. We recently met with

a senior fisheries biologist from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to review the current condition of this waterway and to evaluate the physical options and funding for this restoration.

We will also be contacting other organizations such as Trout Unlimited to obtain a further assessment of our restoration options. Our next step will be to identify and pursue sources to fund this part of the overall creek restoration.

Tom Johnson
KNC Board Member



The Colors of Autumn

With our yearly leaf color change, it is important to understand why trees go through this process. Throughout the summer months, when trees are actively growing, the majority of the plant's nutrients are stored within the leaf tissue. Towards the end of summer, plants will begin to store energy instead of using it for new growth and reproduction. Photosynthesis is the process by which the plant converts light, water, and carbon dioxide to make the energy the plant needs to grow and survive the winter. The green color of leaves is produced by the chlorophyll component of photosynthesis that collects the sun light. These compounds are located near the surface of the leaf for the greatest light absorption and therefore hide the color of other leaf compounds.

As the days grow shorter and the temperatures begin to drop, plants respond by disassembling the leaves photosynthetic components. The nutrients within these components are moved to the roots and stems where they are stored and will be used the following spring. This disassembly of leaf components is highly complex; however most of it will occur before we see any leaf color change. It is only during the very last stages of this breakdown of photosynthetic components that the showy leaf colors will appear.

Carotenoids are responsible for the bright yellow leaf color. They are present in the leaves throughout the growing season, but are only visible when the chlorophyll begins to break down.

These pigments protect the leaves from the harmful by-products of photosynthesis. Without them photosynthetic components would destroy themselves.

Anthocyanins are responsible for the reds, oranges, pinks, purples, and blues in fruits and flowers, and also the brilliant red and orange colors of fall leaves. These compounds are made midway through autumn and are used to block the photosynthesis systems from bright sunlight as the chlorophyll breaks down. Plants that do not turn red in fall are usually more resistant to bright sunlight, and therefore don't need to produce the red pigments. Due to this protective property of red pigments, many times the outer most leaves of a tree will be more red and the inner leaves that are shaded by the outer leaves will be more yellow in color.

The most important factor in the amount of color that will be seen within a year is the weather during the color change. Cool, sunny weather will result in very bright fall colors because more pigments will have to be produced to protect the leaves from sun damage. While cool weather is good, a hard frost may destroy the leaf tissue before all the colors are able to come out. Warm weather will increase the speed at which the components are broken down and decrease the amount of red pigments that are produced in the leaves.

Christine Register
KNC Project Manager

Fire's Help at Kishwauketoe

The use of fire is probably our most efficient, thorough, and cost effective method of managing the various native plant communities within Kishwauketoe. Fire keeps invasive plants and brush in check, opens and fertilizes the soil and naturally reduces competition from weeds.

Don't be fooled . . . a field burn can be dangerous; but a controlled field burn, or "prescribed burn", although still exciting, can be conducted safely as long as we "control" the potential dangers.

Kim Parker, Ed Rynko, as well as the other board members and volunteers, have been "old hats" at this prescribed burn for some time. They, along with the kind help and guidance of the Williams Bay Fire Department, and with the cooperation of the Village, have managed to conduct a number of "burns" over the years. Although I'm a full-time firefighter and have seen a few field fires over the years, I still have a healthy respect for

field or brush fires—they are a completely different animal.

So, it was with this healthy respect for brush fires that I joined Kim Parker and together we participated in a "Prescribed Burn Workshop" given by Ron Martin of the Midwest Prairies LLC, just outside of Ft. Atkinson, earlier in the year.

While there, we were not only able to reinforce some of our existing knowledge, but were able to gain understanding of the influence of temperature, humidity and wind; the use of appropriate tools, equipment and personal safety gear and the various methods to safely burn a particular area.

It was an incredibly informative day, both in and out of the classroom, meeting fellow stewards of both private and public conservancies, that culminate in an actual burn of a five acre parcel!

Continued on Page 4 . . .

Summer Interns

This past summer in addition to Christine Regester joining our staff, we had five additional part and full time interns.

Paul Werner started in May as a full time summer intern. Paul is a student at UW-Whitewater and is working towards a Geography major. His current course work includes Environmental and Natural Resource Graphic Information Systems, Biogeography and Principles of Geology. Paul did an outstanding job this summer and plans to return for the 2008 summer season.

Sara Locke started her internship in early July and is a recent graduate of UW-Whitewater with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Sociology. Sara has always had a strong interest in conservation and the environment and her long term goal is to attend graduate school at the University of California for environmental studies. Sara helped a great deal with our grant writing this summer and was a very enthusiastic worker on our various restoration projects.

David and James Oldeschulte, students at Williams Bay High School and KNC volunteers for the past two years, also signed on as part-time interns in mid-June and worked throughout the summer. David and James have a strong interest in protecting and preserving the environment and have stayed on this fall under the student internship program.

Jeff Haeger, on vacation with his dad from the state of Mississippi, volunteered several days during the month of July and we hope will join us again in 2008.

Eric Tarman-Ramcheck started out his third season with KNC, and decided to take some summer school courses and continue his work with the Prairie Enthusiasts.

Harold J. Friestad
Chairman-KNC

Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy Prairie

The 32 acre prairie in KNC has all been seeded and is doing great. The project was divided into three sections. The northern first three acre section was hand seeded in 1995. The middle 14-acre section was machine seeded in May of 2006. The final 15-acre southern section was machine seeded in January of 2007. Research shows that seeding at different times of the year favors certain forbs (flowers) and grasses, so we are interested in seeing the differences in the two final sections of the prairie.

Also notice when walking around the prairie how it becomes more wet towards the south end, or toward the lake. As the prairie matures, the plants that like wet soils may be larger and more abundant in the southern section. The whole prairie was seeded with 85 different species of forbs and grasses that should produce color from April until October.

Kim Parker
KNC Board Member

Boy Scout Troop 237 of Williams Bay

We feel that we are lucky to have Kishwauketoe in our town. It is a huge parcel of land with lots of trails, a tower, swamps, and Southwick Creek. My friends and I have always loved going there to walk around and play. As we got older and became Boy Scouts we needed to find ways to contribute to our community. We like working at Kishwauketoe best because we know we are contributing to future generations of kids that will find a home here. We want them to enjoy nature just as much as we have.

If we do not help and keep KNC up it will not give the children of the future the same opportunity. We also enjoy being outside and doing some of the physical labor. All the adults are always nice to us and appreciate our help. We will continue working for Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy into our adulthood.

Michael Roth,
Troop 237



Our Conservancy

What is Kishwauketoe all about?

Today, some 18 years since the citizens of the Village of Williams Bay purchased the property, our goals continue to focus on the preservation of the abundance of plants and animals that inhabit the 230 acres and protecting the lands and waters needed for their survival.

Providing enjoyment for not only the folks of Walworth County and also for future generations, we are diligent in our original dream of “saving Geneva Lake” and doing it with very active volunteers, the college

employ each summer, the managing team of Commissioners and the solicitation of donations to support the work by a group of ten Friends of Kishwauketoe.

The Conservancy is open to the public for low-impact recreational activities such as jogging, hiking, cross country skiing, bird watching, and even dog walking. Let’s lovingly protect and restore as we manage this magnificent place. A considerable financial donation would be appreciated. Thank you.

Alice J. Morava
Chair of the Friends

Donation Opportunities

We planted 12 Burr Oak trees this summer through donations received from area residents and organizations and will continue that program. To purchase a tree for a memorial, celebration or just because you enjoy KNC, please send a check in the amount of \$150.00 to the Friends of Kishwauketoe, PO Box 580, Williams Bay, WI 53191. We are in the process of installing a monument where we will include various size brass plaques, which will be based on the amount of the donation received.

A fairly new project that we are asking for donations, memorials, etc., is our Southwick Creek project. We are working at trail improvements along the creek and will be planting 50-60 native Wisconsin trees shrubs

which will replace the box elder and buckthorn that are so invasive. We have also been communicating with the DNR on improving the trout habitat in this area of the creek. Donations will also be recognized as we are doing with the Burr Oak program.

Before long we will have a Kishwauketoe website which will be an interactive site where you will be able to e-mail in bird and plant sightings, counts, etc. This is something that we have wanted for a long. Time and things are finally working out where we will be able to move forward on the project and also receive input from all of our KNC friends.

Harold J. Friestad
KNC Chairman

Fire’s Help at Kishwauketoe cont . . .

Unfortunately, we never accomplished our own prescribed burn this spring in the sedge meadow and wetland surrounding the boardwalk—all the pieces that must come together to actually have a burn just didn’t happen—weather, moisture, wind, volunteer availability—but, it all will come together eventually. Hopefully, this fall or spring we will give it another go.

So, volunteer to give us a hand. Give us a call if you would like to help. We will try to keep

an updated posting of our proposed burn dates. Come on out and share some of the excitement!

Don Skalla
KNC Board Member





2007 Membership Listing

(January 1st, 2007 through December 15, 2007)

Benefactor Memberships

Allyn Foundation
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Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. Cashman
Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Colman
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Geneva Lake Association
Hanson Charitable Trust by
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The Dean & Lois Griffith Foundation
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Lake Geneva Garden Club Foundation
Mrs. Alice J. Morava
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Patrick G. & Shirley W. Ryan
Foundation

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Williams ay Lions Club
Mr. & Mrs. James M. Voss

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Mr. Earl H. Swanson
Williams Bay Civic League
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Alliant Energy
Meggan Lennon
Mr & Mrs. Charles Obligato

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Thank you for all your generous support!

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

KNC

PO BOX 580, Williams Bay, WI 53191

*Please make all checks payable to:
FRIENDS OF KISHWAUKETOE,
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All contributions are tax deductible.

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

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- Family Membership—\$35/year
- Individual Membership—\$25/year
- Sponsor—\$50-\$99
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- Patron—\$500-\$999
- Benefactor—Over \$1000

I wish to volunteer at Kishwauketoe Conservancy

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



PO Box 580
Williams Bay, WI 53191



Fall / Winter Newsletter