



SUMMER/FALL 2022

DRIFTLESS

A Newsletter and 2021 Annual Report from the Driftless Area Land Conservancy



“The land is the real teacher. All we need as students is mindfulness.”

– Robin Wall Kimmerer



Driftless Area Land Conservancy

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Cover Photo: Mark Hirsch

Interested in protecting your land? Give us a call at 608.930.3252 for a confidential discussion.

Driftless Area Land Conservancy



LEGACIES OF RESILIENCE

"May our love continue to grow as wide as the mighty oak's limbs reaching for the sun and as deep as the roots of the prairie grasses..."

These are the words my husband and I said together as we stood under an ancient bur oak in Iowa on our wedding day, 11 years ago.

The resiliency of nature has been a throughline in my life, and it's a theme that I've been hearing echoed as I've had the pleasure (and, as I now see it, the luxury and privilege!) of visiting with many of you, in person, out on the land this summer. It's also echoed in the stories that follow in this newsletter.

I'm inspired by the legacy of landowners who have protected their land forever with conservation easements, and by the devotion of people who have invested decades in caring for the land through thoughtful application of fire, grazing, and other management tools. As we embark together on the first leg of the Driftless Trail, protecting a corridor of private land connecting Tower Hill and Governor Dodge State Parks, I'm inspired by the landowners who want to share their favorite places with our Driftless community. Ecologically, these connecting corridors provide space for wildlife and plants to adapt to our changing climate, but the pandemic also reminded us how important access to nature is to the resiliency and health of people as well. And what could be more symbolic of resilience than a 300-year-old oak tree hidden in a valley, or the ancient red pine hanging on to the side of a cliff?

Our shared hopes and dreams for the Driftless - of resilience, health, beauty, balance, and care - will become a legacy that will sustain generations to come. Thank you so much for being part of that vital work. With your support, we've accomplished so much already this year, and we're excited to be moving ever forward into a brighter future for our beloved Driftless.


Jennifer Filipiak
Executive Director
jennifer@driftlessconservancy.org

Barb Barzen



THANKS FOR THE HELP!

Hi there! I'm the lesser purple fringed orchid, or *Platanthera psycodes*, as scientists like to call me. Usually I'm a shy and retiring kind of plant, but I just HAD to reach out so I could say a big THANK YOU for protecting my habitat at Erickson Conservation Area!

"...the DALC community is determined to help us thrive."

I got a couple of botanists pretty excited this summer when they

found me in the wetlands at Erickson. Not only am I gorgeous, colorful, and great for pollinators, but this is only the second time I've been recorded in Lafayette County!

Of course, I haven't had it easy in the past two hundred years or so. Wisconsin has lost 50% of its wetlands. And wetlands were already pretty uncommon in the Driftless Area - one of the downsides of missing out on melting glaciers.

But I like it here, and I know my habitat is even more important for being rare. There are ducks, cranes, and swans nesting nearby, eagles and osprey hunting in the river, and all kinds of other birds and mammals hanging out. And I've got my amazing wetland plant community too, like my pals bur reed, joe pye, and swamp milkweed.

There are a couple things we've all been worrying about, though. Sometimes new species show up and turn out to be real bullies. Climate change is driving out some of my friends. And we've really been missing fire! I know that might sound weird, since this is a wetland, but we're a special kind called a sedge meadow that gets drier over the summer. Without fire, dead thatch builds up and smothers my beautiful purple petals. Plus, all these pushy shrubs start moving in, and they are SUCH sun hogs.

But I don't want to complain - in fact, life here is getting better all the time! That's because the DALC community is determined to help us thrive. I'm so happy to have volunteers who make Erickson more diverse and resilient, visitors who admire me and my friends and decide they want to protect us, and donors whose gifts are the foundation for all this work and more.

So, next time you visit Erickson Conservation Area and hear the blackbirds calling, the voles squeaking, the sedges whispering, and my own leaves rustling, that's us shouting in the only way we can: THANK YOU!

By Platanthera psycodes, with help from Emilee Martell (emilee@driftlessconservancy.org)

Zach Pacana



TRAIL OPENING CELEBRATES ROLAND SARDESON'S GENEROSITY AND VISION

After years of hard work, habitat restoration, trail planning, and community conversation, DALC's Sardeson Forest Preserve opened to the public during a celebratory evening in June.

At only twelve acres, Sardeson is DALC's smallest preserve, but it has a big personality. At the trailhead, restored prairie and handsome oaks frame stunning views to the west. Then the terrain quickly plunges down towering rock outcroppings of exposed sandstone that dates back 460 million years. At the foot of these bluffs is a gentle valley of aspen and maples, divided by a sparkling stream.

The beauty and diversity of this site reflect the man who donated it to DALC: Roland Sardeson. A well-known and well-loved Mineral Point resident, Roland was a stone mason, a potter, a Vietnam veteran, a skydiving enthusiast, an actor, and a builder of Little Free Libraries, among many other things. "This land is where Roland would come to think, memorize his lines, and appreciate the Driftless landscape," says his friend Mike Christensen, board president of Mineral Point's Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts.

In the fall of 2016, Roland called DALC and asked if we could visit him on his land. He showed us the prairie openings he had restored, and told us how he loved watching sunsets from a stone outcropping, affectionately known as Roland's Rock.

During the visit, Roland mentioned that he was having some health challenges. Little did we know at the time, Roland was terminally ill and making plans for what to do with his land. Within weeks of our visit, Roland passed

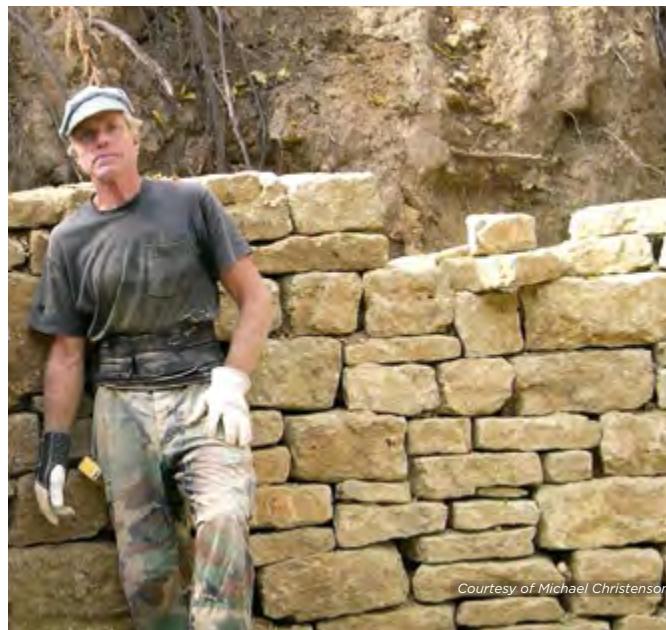
away. He was facing his own mortality and yet had the vision and compassion to think beyond himself. In his will, Roland donated this beautiful preserve to DALC.

We were, and continue to be, honored that Roland chose to entrust us with his land legacy. His gift sparked the beginning of a long project to welcome the community to this special place while caring for its unique ecosystems. A grant from the Mineral Point Community Fund of the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin made many ideas possible. With the help of community members, dedicated volunteers, and a hardworking WisCorps team, goals became reality. Invasive species were cleared, an informational kiosk was designed, and a 1.25-mile trail was constructed.

At last, it was time to open the trail and celebrate Roland's generosity with his community. On a perfect June evening, many of Roland's friends joined us at the new trailhead of Sardeson Forest Preserve. Stories were told, memories were shared, and cookies were eaten. An eagle soared overhead - Roland himself paying a visit! Then, a ribbon-cutting ceremony officially opened the trail, and a group of poets led hikes through the preserve, celebrating Roland's creative spirit as well as the beauty of this piece of the Driftless.

Sardeson Forest Preserve is now officially open to the public, and we hope you can get out and explore it! The trail is foot traffic only, and can be steep and rocky in places. The preserve is located on the western edge of Mineral Point. Visit www.driftlessconservancy.org/sardeson for more details on getting there.

Emilee Martell (emilee@driftlessconservancy.org)



A BUSY TIME FOR THE DRIFTLESS TRAIL

Look for announcements about the Driftless Trail over the next eight months as we get the word out about opportunities to hike three new segments. In late September and early October, volunteers and a WisCorps crew will complete construction of:

- a new loop on the Weaver Road Segment, north of Governor Dodge State Park, to open this fall;
- the 2.7-mile Knobs Road Segment, four miles north of Ridgeway, to open this fall; and
- the Phoebe Point Trail on Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin estate, to open next spring.

Plans for 2023 also include completing the northern end of the trail from Tower Hill State Park, through the Welsh Hills on the Taliesin estate, to the Unity Chapel area. From there, we will construct trail through the Lowery Creek valley to Pleasant Ridge, near the Knobs Road Segment. The specific route from Pleasant Ridge to Blue Mound State Park has yet to be planned.

We recently welcomed three new people to our trail planning team: Steph Judge, DALC's Conservation Director; Zach Pacana, DALC's Land Management Specialist; and Karl Heil, who was superintendent of Blue Mound State Park for 32 years. With our growing pool of expertise and our ever-expanding group of trail hosts and trained volunteers, we are poised to pick up the pace for getting the Driftless Trail on the ground.

Are you interested in hosting the Driftless Trail on part of your property? Find information on our website, www.driftlessconservancy.org/driftless-trail, and give us a call to set up an exploratory conversation.

Keep up with trail developments through our media announcements, and by subscribing to email updates at bit.ly/dalc-news. We look forward to seeing you on the trail soon!

Barb Barzen (barb@driftlessconservancy.org)

BUILDING A CLEA-N FUTURE

Thanks to your generous support, DALC has been able to reach beyond the scope of work typically associated with land trusts. Our Clean, Local Energy Alliance – Now! (CLEA-N) project collaborates with area activists to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lower the temperature. We are doing our part to address the climate crisis.

Your support makes the following initiatives possible:

- **CLEA-N Lights 4-U:** We distributed over 7,500 LED lightbulbs throughout the Iowa County area.
- **Iowa County Solar Group Buy:** Teaming up with Legacy Solar Co-op, this project offers property owners technical support and financial incentives to switch to solar energy for their homes and businesses.
- **Wisconsin Climate Table:** DALC collaborates with over thirty environmental organizations throughout the state to accelerate energy efficiencies and expand local, small-scale clean energy generation.
- **Clean Energy Transition Plan Essay Contest:** This authentic learning opportunity fosters future leaders by encouraging area high school students to actively help move their districts toward clean energy practices that save money and the planet. Winning essays will be published in local newspapers.



In so many ways, your support makes it possible for DALC to build and preserve a vibrant, clean environment, now and for the generations to come, right here in the heart of the Driftless.

Chuck Tennesen (charles@driftlessconservancy.org)



A LEGACY OF CONSERVATION

The Driftless Area is an ancient land, and we hope its bright future will stretch as long as its storied past. Members of the Driftless Legacy Society help protect our hills, valleys, waterways, and farms for generations to come by including DALC in their estate plans. In 2022, we were grateful to welcome Doug White and Gayle Alexander to this special group of people. Below, they've shared why they chose to leave a legacy with DALC.

HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN LAND CONSERVATION?

We were nature lovers since childhood, and later activists in environmental movements, so when we retired we considered how best to give back to nature. Supporting land and water conservation directly through gifts made total sense. We decided to be land conservation donors, rather than land owners, to spread the impact of giving to environmentally sensitive areas that could be restored or maintained in part through our gifts.

WHAT DREW YOU TO DRIFTLESS AREA LAND CONSERVANCY?

We wanted to give locally as well as globally, and love many spots in the Driftless Area. We sought experienced stewards of wild lands in Wisconsin and DALC fit the bill. We also hope to volunteer in conservation projects, so joining an organization nearby made sense.

WHY WERE YOU INSPIRED TO JOIN THE LEGACY SOCIETY?

It was our intention in joining DALC that we give both short- and long-term to conservation projects. We already made legacy commitments to other environmental groups, so adding a legacy component of our giving to DALC was an easy decision.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE DRIFTLESS?

The Baraboo Hills for its wonderful diversity of ecological niches in a fairly small area. We do an annual camping tour of the Driftless Area and welcome suggestions on natural areas to visit.

Turn to page 15 to see a full list of our Legacy Society members. Feeling inspired? You can join this amazing group in just a few simple steps - get in touch today to create your own Driftless legacy!

MEET DALC'S NEW STAFF!

As environmental threats loom, more and more landowners want to protect their land forever – and because of YOUR support, DALC is growing to meet that demand! This summer, DALC welcomed two new full-time staff. We are also now hosting an additional part-time position for the Southern Driftless Grasslands partnership. Read about our amazing new team members below!



Stephanie Judge
Conservation Director

After almost 15 years working throughout Wisconsin with The Nature Conservancy, we're thrilled that Stephanie Judge has come to DALC to focus her many talents on our special corner of the state. Stephanie brings a wealth of experience in land protection, conservation easements, and habitat restoration. As Conservation Director, she leads DALC's land protection and management activities, and works with landowners who want to forever protect the places they love. In her spare time, Stephanie is an avid gardener and budding hunter, and loves spending time on Wisconsin's lakes and rivers with her family.

Favorite thing about the Driftless Area: "There's no other place like it! Something new and special lies around every corner of meandering rivers, streams and roads, with incredible landscape diversity that makes the Driftless Area one of the most ecologically important gems in all of North America."



Zach Pacana
Land Management Specialist

Zach Pacana has swapped the swampy low-lands of eastern Michigan for the rolling hills of the Driftless, and

we're delighted to have him at DALC as our Land Management Specialist. Prior to joining DALC, Zach served as Land Manager for the Michigan Nature Association. Before that, he explored many national parks by serving in AmeriCorps. Zach will focus on stewarding DALC's fee-owned properties, growing our volunteer network, and building the Driftless Trail. Zach enjoys trout fishing and trail running and is usually in the company of his best buddy, the Black Lab named Goose.

Favorite thing about the Driftless Area: "The region and people associated with it seem to be so conservation forward and dedicated to maintaining their sense of familiarity with the land. A casual drive through the Driftless Region feels like taking a step back in time - dairy farms and small towns with friendly folks."



Taylor Scott
Southern Driftless Grasslands Communications & Outreach Specialist

Born and raised in the Driftless, growing up around his grandparents' 400-acre pasture-based beef cattle farm, Taylor Scott is eager to tell the stories of our region. Taylor's multidisciplinary communications and community-building background aligns with the goal of Southern Driftless Grasslands: to assist landowners of working and non-working lands to create, steward, and protect grassland, prairie, and savanna habitat in southwest Wisconsin. The partnership created this new position to build a louder voice for grasslands in our region – engaging landowners and the broader community, and showing the success that is possible when landowners, farmers, and communities work together.

When Taylor is not connecting stakeholders and trying (usually in vain) to find time to fish, hike or do DIY pallet projects, he is the co-owner and managing editor of *Valley Sentinel*, an independent community news publication in Spring Green. "My passion has been to help people and organizations build community and engage stakeholders in creative, exciting ways that have measurable results," he says.

Find more information about Southern Driftless Grasslands at www.driftlessgrasslands.org.

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE: THE NEVER-ENDING STORY OF OAKS

**All photos courtesy of Dr. Evan Larson*

It's a Driftless sight as iconic as Blue Mound or the bluffs of the Wisconsin River: the wide, snaking branches and boxy crown of a huge, ancient oak. Dotting a hillside of golden-green grass, sheltering a group of contented cows, or shading a cool blue creek, the oaks of the Driftless are breathtaking trees. They're widely admired and featured as a symbol of our region – just take a look at DALC's logo.

But oaks, especially ancient survivors, are far more than just a pretty sight.

"Oaks are truly the vestiges of the pre-European landscape," says Dr. Evan Larson, professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences and Society at UW-Platteville. "They represent human history, environmental history, the history of fire – all those relationships are woven together and emblematized in oaks."

With thick bark that's resistant to burning, oaks thrived in the sunny, fire-dependent grasslands of the historic Driftless region. Spaced far apart from other trees, "open-grown" oaks avoided competition for light and spread their branches wide, creating enormous crowns.

Oaks are powerhouses of their local habitats. "Oaks support more life forms and more fascinating interactions than any other tree genus in North America," writes Doug Tallamy, author of *The Nature of Oaks*. In his book, he describes how oaks can produce up to 3 million acorns in their lifetimes, feeding countless species – insects, rodents, birds, deer, bears, humans. In addition, oaks host over 900 species of caterpillars, which make up the bulk of what many bird species feed their chicks in the spring. Add in the nesting sites, shade, and erosion control oaks provide, and it's clear that they are truly a keystone species.

But when European settlement put an end to thousands of years of prescribed burning by indigenous peoples, open grasslands quickly grew into forests. Oak seedlings



struggled to compete against faster-growing species. And old, open-grown oaks, shaded by other trees, died or lost their lower limbs.

Still, some remain – hiding in plain sight.

Dr. Larson recently completed a project called Driftless Oaks, where he and his team, using a harmless method

called coring, collected the rings of the region's oldest trees to study historic patterns of drought. Oaks are the perfect species for such projects, because they are long-lived and their growth is tightly linked to soil moisture. Understanding drought patterns in the Driftless region, where we have a lot of agriculture but very little irrigation, is vital.

However, Dr. Larson's research into old oaks gave him much more than just data. It was also an opportunity to connect with unique places, people, and trees in the Driftless Area.

"For as beautiful and inviting as the Driftless landscape is, most of it is privately owned," Dr. Larson explains. "It's really hard to get out there."

But when his team reached out to landowners and explained what they were doing, doors began to open.

"People love oak trees," Dr. Larson says. "So many people were so proud and so excited about their beautiful old trees. Their affection for the land is expressed in their love of oaks."

This love of oaks and the land they grow on is clear at Dry Dog Ranch, a 781-acre property owned by a group of friends and protected by a conservation easement with DALC. Initially purchased for hunting, Dry Dog Ranch is now a gem of restored habitat and good land management. Dale Moody, one of the landowners and current board president of DALC, was happy to welcome Dr. Larson and his team of students to sample oaks on the property.

"When we were looking for which tree to sample, it wasn't the biggest, prettiest oaks, but the ones on hill-sides, the ones that have clung on," Dale recalls. "The stories the oak trees tell us, it's amazing."

The oldest tree found at Dry Dog Ranch, a bur oak, started growing in 1776. Dr. Larson describes venerable trees like this as having "incredible genetic knowledge."

"Those old oaks are of a lineage that has learned to exist here through immense change," he says. "In the trunks of these trees, in their history, all that is wrapped up."

But seeing these ancient trees begs a question: "Where is the next old growth coming from?"

At Dry Dog Ranch, Dale and his fellow landowners are striving to bring back the open, sunny conditions that will allow a new generation of oaks to flourish.

"We are doing big-time oak planting, burns, thinnings to favor oaks," Dale says. "It's fun, but it's work."

Yasi Rezai, DALC board member and Project Manager with Quercus Land Stewardship Services, knows firsthand how important this work is. "Oaks are in decline

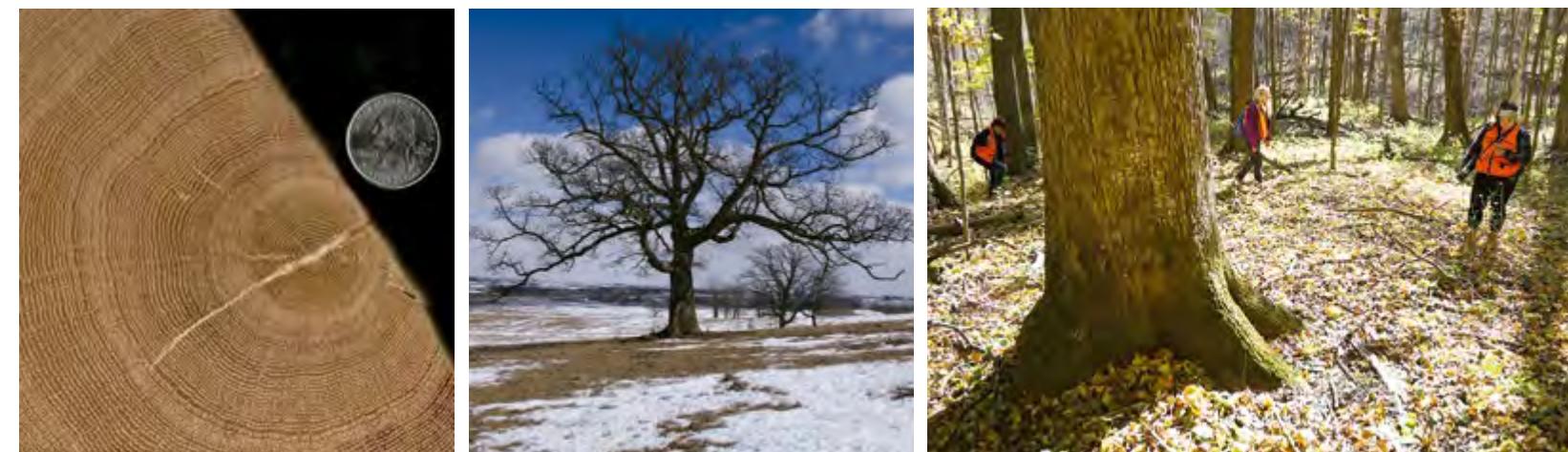
across the country because of factors like fire suppression, wide-scale land-use changes, and invasive species," she explains. "However, there are several things landowners in the Driftless area can do to help." Check out Yasi's advice below on how landowners can give oaks a boost.

After all the hard work of restoration, conservation easements can help ensure that young oaks will have the chance to grow and thrive for hundreds of years, just like their ancestors. Oak-dominated ecosystems are a priority for DALC's land protection program. Your support is building a brighter future for these incredible trees, and the thousands of species that rely on them!

We hope you can get outside this fall and seek out some of the amazing oaks of the Driftless. Dr. Larson can't recommend it enough.

"You are in observance of a really profound being," he says. "There are few models for inspiration better than these trees."

Emilee Martell (emilee@driftlessconservancy.org)



HOW TO MANAGE YOUR LAND FOR OAKS

First: let there be light! Oaks are adapted to more open canopies and need light for regeneration and growth. In most woodlands in southwestern Wisconsin, habitats that were formerly oak savannas and woodlands have filled in with invasive brush like buckthorn and honeysuckle, as well as faster-growing tree species like box elder, cherries, and elms. Start by removing the

brush layer so that more light gets to the ground for acorn germination. Clear trees underneath oaks that are directly competing with them.

Introducing prescribed fire back into the landscape is also integral. Oaks are a fire-tolerant species, and controlled burns will help keep brush and other tree species out. In addition, watch for oak wilt, a fungus that can rapidly

kill oaks. Learn the signs and contact an arborist to discuss treatment options to reduce the spread. And remember that oaks are a keystone species – they help define the entire ecosystem. When you promote oaks, you provide essential habitat for all the other plants and wildlife native to the Driftless!

Yasi Rezai - DALC board member

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



What a beautiful time to be in Southwest Wisconsin! Our prairies have never been prettier, the forests are lush and green, farm fields are green and golden, and bluebirds are rebounding from a down year in 2021. We have been carefully and safely gathering in a new normal.

- Our spring social at Folklore Village was well attended with several new first-time attendees. This was an opportunity to share the Driftless message of preserving lands.
- Evenings Afield programs in the Lowery Creek Watershed have been popular and informative. These small groups have given us an opportunity to share ideas and history while surrounded by nature.
- Legacy Society members gathered at the Bloomfield Prairie and each had a story to tell about how they acquired their property and became involved with preserving it.

As an organization we have set out and accomplished much this year, thanks to your generous support.

- We are pleased that we were able to permanently protect the Ringelstetter Wetland property along the lower Wisconsin River, located on the north side of the river between Sauk City and Spring Green. This will be transferred to the State of Wisconsin and become a part of the lower Wisconsin Riverway, open for all to enjoy.
- The Driftless Trail Project is continuing with additional segments planned to open soon (see page 5).
- Strategic planning is underway which will guide DALC's efforts for the next five years.
- New staff have joined DALC which will help us review and add new conservation easements, and better manage and improve the properties we now own (see page 7).

We hope you have been able to safely get out and enjoy nature this year. Your continued support makes it possible to do the important work of DALC.

Sincerely,
Dale

THANK YOU

As partners, volunteers, and financial supporters, you make land protection and stewardship in Southwest Wisconsin's Driftless Area possible. Thank you for your 2021 gift(s) and for helping build a more hopeful and sustainable future.

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"I continue to fall in love with the Driftless Area. I hope to see the Driftless Area Land Conservancy focus on opening up the magic of the Driftless to citizens who want to hike through it and become immersed in its special beauty. I'm thrilled that you have a vigorous "acquisition" & conservation mission. When trails and overlooks provide ways for Driftless lovers to enter into and enjoy more of it on a physical and personal level, I will be even more thrilled. Keep up this effort!"

– Mary Weeks

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*“When DALC has more to work with,
 more good work gets done.”*

– Mark Mittelstadt

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We apologize for any errors or omissions.
 If you have been missed or want your
 name to appear differently, please contact
 emilee@driftlessconservancy.org.

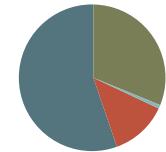
2021 FINANCIAL REPORT:

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit conservation organization, Driftless Area Land Conservancy depends on the generosity of our members and supporters to enhance the health, diversity and beauty of Southwest Wisconsin's Driftless Area and connect people to the land and to one another.



2021 OPERATING REVENUE

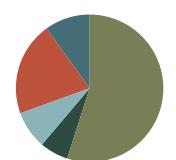
Individuals: \$444,884
Events: \$4,495
Grants: \$179,345
Other: \$779,610
Total Operating Revenue: \$1,408,334



Individuals
Grants
Events
Other

2021 EXPENSES

Land Protection & Management: \$331,342
Community Programs: \$36,764
Advocacy: \$49,017
Administration: \$121,509
Fundraising: \$61,890
Total Expenses: \$600,522



Land Protection & Mgmt
Community Programs
Advocacy
Administration
Fundraising

Deficit From Operations: \$807,812

Note: DALC received \$468,750 in donated legal services that benefited our advocacy work in 2021. This amount is not included in the operating revenue and expenses shown above. The information presented here is unaudited. Our financial statements (reviewed by a CPA) and Form 990 are available upon request.

THANK YOU TO OUR FOUNDATION AND CORPORATE PARTNERS



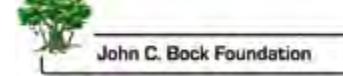
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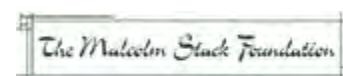
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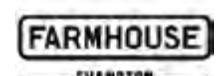
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STEWARDSHIP AND ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Our stewardship and endowment funds are managed by the State Bank of Cross Plains and the Madison Community Foundation. If you'd like to make a tax-deductible contribution to these funds—or establish a named fund—please contact Jennifer Filipiak at 608-930-3252.

*DALC also purchases annual Terra firma Insurance, which provides up to \$500,000 in additional legal defense support. To learn more visit: <http://www.terrafirma.org>.



Photo by Susan Dvorak

THE DRIFTLESS LEGACY SOCIETY

There are few places in the world as unique as the Driftless Area of Southwest Wisconsin. That is why protecting its critical habitat and beautiful spaces is vitally important. We gratefully thank our Driftless Legacy Society members for their commitment to this distinctive landscape. By including DALC in your estate plan, you too can protect and care for the land you love for generations to come.

If you have an interest in joining our Legacy Society please let us know by contacting us at (608) 930-3252 or email info@driftlessconservancy.org. We value such a profound commitment to our mission and would appreciate the opportunity to thank you in your lifetime.

Thanks to you, and to those who treasure these lands, the future looks brighter.

DRIFTLESS LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

Anne Bachner
Helen Boley
David Kopitzke & Paul Klawiter
Lisa Luedtke
Ted Ross
Roland Sardeson
Ellyn Satter
Sharon Stark & Peter Livingston
Mary Trevartha
Susan Trudell
Marta Voytovich & Laurie Gauper
Doug White & Gayle Alexander

*Driftless Area
Land Conservancy*

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UPCOMING EVENTS

www.driftlessconservancy.org



Mary Kay Baum

CHAINSAW TRAINING WORKSHOPS

September - November | 8AM - 4:30PM | New Glarus

Join SAWW (Safety and Woods Working) trainer Luke Saunders of Adaptive Restoration for hands-on training in chainsaw use, safety, and maintenance. All sessions will be held on a DALC preserve near New Glarus. The cost of Level 1 and 2 classes is \$140. The Level 3 class is \$150.

Wednesday, September 28 : Level 1 class

Tuesday, October 4 : Level 1 class

Wednesday, October 5 : Level 2 class

Tuesday, November 1 : Level 3 class

WRITING WITH THE LAND

October 9 | 1PM - 3PM | Mineral Point

Immerse yourself in a relaxing, no-pressure afternoon of writing in partnership with the land. Two Driftless Area poets, Erin Schneider and Catherine Young, will guide you on an exploration of the beautiful Sardeson Forest Preserve, with stops to observe nature, share prose and poetry, and of course, write.

SANDHILL CRANE MIGRATION

November 5 | 4:30PM - 6PM | near Spring Green

Every year, thousands of sandhill cranes gather on the Lower Wisconsin River as they prepare to migrate south for the winter. Join us to get a prime view of this incredible natural spectacle from a bluff above the river, and learn about the history and conservation of sandhill cranes from local expert Jeb Barzen, who directed the Field Ecology Department at the International Crane Foundation for nearly 30 years.

DON'T MISS OUT ON ANY OF OUR DRIFTLESS EVENTS THIS YEAR!

Sign up for our monthly eNews and get the latest on local conservation news, programs and volunteer opportunities. This free email will come just once a month along with any other special messages. Visit www.driftlessconservancy.org to sign up today. And, find us on Facebook and Instagram for more news and links to important work happening across the region.

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 improve people's lives by connecting them to the land and to each other.

EVENTS: DRIFTLESSCONSERVANCY.ORG/EVENTS
CALL: 608.930.3252

 [FACEBOOK.COM/DRIFTLESSCONSERVANCY](https://www.facebook.com/driftlessconservancy)
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- Sound Finances
- Ethical Conduct
- Responsible Governance
- Lasting Stewardship

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