



SUMMER/FALL 2025

DRIFTLESS

A Newsletter from the Driftless Area Land Conservancy

"The environment, after all, is where we all meet, where we all have a mutual interest. It is one thing that all of us share. It is not only a mirror of ourselves, but a focusing lens on what we can become."

- Lady Bird Johnson



DRIFTLESS
AREA LAND CONSERVANCY



**Driftless Area
Land Conservancy**

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Cover Photo: Monarch Butterfly - Anna
Weyers (USFWS)

Driftless Area Land Conservancy

A SUMMER OF GRATITUDE



About 20 years ago, I had an incredible experience volunteering for a Peruvian organization that brought Peruvian and international scientists together to survey wildlife in the rainforest (along the Tambopata River). For three months, I surveyed for mammals in the jungle. It was pretty great, I'd be happy to share some pics and stories!

I've been thinking a lot about that experience this summer because the weather we've had this summer is exactly like the Peruvian rainforest! The rain, the heat, the humidity! And the GROWTH – you can practically see the grasses growing, the corn sweating, and young trees closing in the trails with new growth. Invasives are sure having a moment too – I've noticed wild parsnip explode in growth around my pasture this year. I've also seen lots more insects this year – especially fireflies! And do the annual cicadas seem crazy loud this year?

The hot, wet weather this year is great in that soil moisture is finally out of drought, but 2025 will be another record year for heat. The rain comes in torrents, in often violent storms. And who knows what winter will bring? Tons of snow? More drought? Highly variable weather patterns have been predicted by climate scientists, and we are certainly living it now.

There's so much to say about the chaotic times we live in today. But today I want to focus on the simple act of showering all of you out there caring for the land, my gratitude. Thank you to the dedicated and hardy people who help us keep trails open and keep up the fight against invasive species. Your work on DALC preserves, at state natural areas, and on your own land allows for the incredible displays of late summer blooms across our grasslands and savannas. It keeps trails open, so we can all experience the Midwestern jungle. And what better way to connect with the land and each other than by sweating together!

Jennifer Filipiak
Executive Director
jennifer@driftlessconservancy.org

*“Thank you to the dedicated
and hardy people who help
us keep trails open”*

Sunrise over a prairie,
Photo by USFWS Midwest Region



Wintergreen Conference Center.
Photo by Angie Buelow

WINTERGREEN, HERE WE COME!

Driftless Area Land Conservancy has taken a monumental step, exercising our option to purchase the iconic Wintergreen property. This cherished 245-acre property along the Lower Wisconsin River is a beloved community landmark and a top conservation priority. This milestone marks a major step toward protecting nearly a mile of shoreline, vital wildlife habitat, and the site for Driftless Trail segments.

Wintergreen is more than land. It is a living mosaic of wetlands, prairie, and oak savanna that supports 43 species of Greatest Conservation Need. It also borders the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, the longest free-flowing stretch of river in the Midwest, and sits beside Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin Estate, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It's one of our last, best chances to preserve this landscape of extraordinary ecological and cultural value.

Thanks to your support, from heartfelt gifts to the energy generated by our Spring Social, we've come this far. June brought good news too, as we expect a Knowles-

Nelson Stewardship grant to cover half the value of the undeveloped land. We're also proud to share that we've received funding through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, a critical boost that underscores the ecological importance of this project. Your overwhelming response to our Spring Appeal gave us the confidence to move forward, even as we await one final federal grant decision (expected by the end of this month!).

Moving forward, we will be collaborating with the community to develop a shared vision for Wintergreen's future. We are also working diligently to secure the final funds needed, with the goal of completing the purchase by the end of October.

Together we're protecting a place that belongs to all of us. For today, and for generations to come.

If you're interested in further conversation about the future of Wintergreen, please do not hesitate to reach out to the DALC team.

*“Together we're protecting a place
that belongs to all of us. For today,
and for generations to come.”*

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

CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF STEWARDSHIP: HONORING THE CATES FAMILY

On August 12th, 2025, Driftless Area Land Conservancy welcomed all to the Legacy Society Picnic. During this gathering Gathering Waters had the honor to present the Land Legacy Award to Richard (Dick) Cates and his family for their outstanding commitment to conservation. After the Cates family warmly thanked the Gathering Waters and DALC teams for bestowing such a meaningful recognition for their work, Dick spoke on behalf of the family and offered the following:

“The history of every nation is written in the way in which it cares for its farms, farmers, soil and water, flora and fauna— collectively, the land. So it is my commitment, as a farmer and teacher, to communicate the conviction that the fate of how we care for our land is everybody’s future, everyone’s vital concern.



Delivering the speech featured in the article, Dick shares their message with the audience. Photo by Danni Niles

Perhaps the greatest existential crisis human civilization faces is the destruction of the natural conditions necessary for our own survival. I believe that the most significant work any of us can do at this time in the history of human beings on Earth is to live in reciprocity for her gifts in a way that cares deeply for all she has bestowed.

This is respectful, honorable work. It is work we should all be engaged in—not just those of us who produce

food, but all of us who leave any sort of footprint of our time here, supported by the gifts of the Earth.

I have followed my heart through life. A land ethic has guided my journey on this place. The wisdom of my dearest friend, Kim, guided our business in a life-giving direction, and with imagination, we worked together to put together the pieces of a life-sustaining puzzle.

For our family, conservation has indeed not been that feared set of constraints, but a very positive part of our lives, which

has involved skill and learning to understand what the land can sustain. I look at the land we tend as a portrait and a statement of self, and to try to understand how we and the land, living together as partners, can do well. That’s an uplifting way to farm and to live. So many of us on the land long for this. It’s a process of finding our way.

Here Kim and I are so many years later, with love in our hearts for our grown children, our grandchildren, and this magical land. We are still here precisely because of Eric and Kiley’s commitment to this land, “a commitment to conservation” as they have taken as their farm tag line.

We feel gratitude for our family, our community, and for the gifts of this place. We feel hope that the next generation of our family on this land and our community will thrive.

One must have faith that as seasons change, the Earth’s gifts will always be there for us if we care for them. The greatest gift we can bestow is to be thankful, to show gratitude, and to accept them with respect, a promise of care, and great humility.

To the next generation of farmers, and to all, we need to—we must— leave a proud legacy. This is what I hope for.

What kind of ancestors do we want to be?

A creek runs through this Driftless land, and it is cold and clear...and the brookies are back.

Njina wakąçakšana, “Water is life” in the Hoocąk language of the indigenous Ho-Chunk peoples of this magical Driftless land.”



Attendees enjoy the Legacy Picnic at White Oak Savana in Dodgeville, WI. Photo by Lily Butler



The Cates family joined by Gathering Waters Executive Director, Mike Carlson (far left) & DALC Executive Director, Jen Filipiak (far right). Photo by Lily Butler

LEADERSHIP AND LOVE FOR THE LAND

Darlene Stanek grew up on a dairy farm, spending her days enjoying the land, tubing down creeks, and falling in love with nature in the most effortless way. Darlene’s love for nature was something she always carried with her. And after working for 40 years in the corporate world, she retired and found a new way to love the outdoors.

One day, she came across a Facebook post about trailbuilding with Driftless Area Land Conservancy. Her reaction? “I have no idea what this is about, but why not try?” With this motivated spirit, Darlene attended her first work day in May of 2024, and it quickly became a passion. “If I didn’t like it, I could leave,” Darlene laughs as she reflects on her first experience. Over time, she saw the trail segments take shape and quickly realized the critical role she played in creating it. At this point, there was no turning back.

For Darlene, trail building is more than physical work, it’s about community. She learned the ins and outs, from switchbacks to using hand tools, and built strong friendships along the way. She even bought her 15-year-old niece to join in. “Everyone is so welcoming, and there’s no pressure. Everyone works at their own pace. You just show up, and they teach you everything you need to know.”

For Darlene, this was also more than staying busy after retirement; it was about staying connected with nature. “I grew up on a farm, but I do not have access to that anymore.

To me, I want to be outside, and I want to be able to enjoy the outdoors. This gives you that opportunity,” she reflects. “Each trail is unique, so you never get bored!”

Volunteering has also given Darlene the chance to leave a lasting mark on her community. “You get to help create something that others will enjoy for years to come,” she shares with pride. And the best part? There is no commitment

“You get to help create something that others will enjoy for years to come”

pressure. Whether it’s one day or every month, you do what works best for you.

Darlene’s story is a beautiful reminder that it’s never too late to try something new. Whether it’s trail building, trimming, or simply showing up and connecting with others, Darlene is making her mark.

If you are interested in exploring DALC volunteering opportunities, please visit:

<https://www.driftlessconservancy.org/volunteer>

- Katie Cervenka (katiec@driftlessconservancy.org)



Darlene working on the Welsh Hills Segment. Photo by Zach Pacana



Darlene laughs with fellow DALC volunteer. Photo by Zach Pacana



Darlene and her great niece on the Welsh Hills Segment. Photo by Katie Cervenka



Advertisement for home building sits on valuable grassland habitat. Photo by Stephanie Judge

NO HOUSES HERE - THIS LAND IS FOR THE BIRDS!

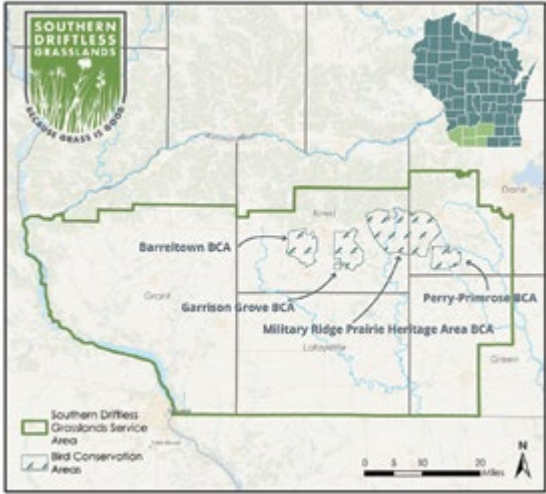
The meadowlark lifts from the grass as we tread across its territory on our walk toward the ominous sign proclaiming “5 Acre Lots for Sale.” Perched on high open ground with distant views of Blue Mound and just a short commute from Madison, this site must have seemed perfect for residential development, just as it was a perfect spot for this bird to nest.

Grassland birds like meadowlarks, bobolinks, dickcissels, Henslow’s sparrows, and upland sandpipers have declined more steeply than any guild of birds in North America - down 43% - since 1970 according to the U.S. Committee of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative. Even before then, these once-abundant birds and countless species of insects and other animals had already lost hundreds of millions of acres of habitat as the once vast prairies were plowed under for row-crop agriculture, grazed to dust, and otherwise left to grow to trees where fires had once regularly cleansed the land and kept it open.

Since the 1970s, further pressures drove yet steeper declines: Growing cities and their suburbs expanded outward; increasing ownership of rural second homes began to endlessly fragment the countryside; an onslaught of invasive plant species crept in to clog everywhere not burned, grazed, plowed, sprayed or mowed; the push for biofuels drove conversion of valuable grassland habitats to corn; and the rise of confinement agriculture with the corresponding loss of grazing animals on pastures,

removed a critical last vestige of habitat as those animals were now fed in lots rather than left to wander and feed among the grasses, flowers, birds, and bees.

In fact, the decline of Wisconsin’s iconic traditional dairy industry has paralleled the decline in grassland birds. Where every farm once had mosaics of pastures that provided forage for cattle and surrogate habitat for birds, many thousands of family farms have been lost, and most areas now host the never-ending cycle of corn-bean rotations instead of diverse hay fields and pastures.



Bird Conservation Areas within Southern Driftless Grassland’s Service Area. Map by Southern Driftless Grasslands

Fortunately, southwest Wisconsin, which used to be awash in prairie and oak savanna, still has some grasslands, many acres of which reside in what are known as grassland Bird Conservation Areas or BCAs.

BCAs are identified regions of about 10,000 acres designed to support grassland birds. The goal is to have a predominantly treeless landscape with a central core area of 2,000-acres made up of connected, permanent grassland. Surrounding this core, a mix of farmland and smaller grassland patches can be found, helping create a healthy habitat for wildlife.

The current designated BCAs are far from reaching the aspirational goal, but continued efforts have used the BCA model as a guiding north star.

Here in the core of the Perry-Primrose BCA, one of the four BCAs in southwest Wisconsin, where this meadowlark had nested under the “Lots for Sale” sign, at least eight

bird species listed as threatened or of “special concern” can regularly be heard and seen.

Grassland BCAs provide a science-based model for protecting grassland birds, pollinators and other conservation targets within an agricultural landscape. If successfully implemented, the model can ensure enough large blocks of grassland to support area-sensitive species, like grassland birds, which don’t fare well when a landscape is too subdivided. Small parcels cause problems for area-sensitive species because they usually have brushy fence lines where edge predators like raccoons, possums, skunks and coyotes prowl. The closer a grassland bird nests to an edge, the less likely its young are to successfully survive and fledge.

Back in 2009, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) introduced the BCA concept within a feasibility study and master plan for the Southwest Wisconsin Grassland & Stream Conservation Area (SWGSCA), with a vision of working with diverse partners to conserve and enhance functioning grassland, savanna and stream ecosystems, set within a rural landscape of working farms.

Shortly thereafter, DNR purchased two core tracts: 360 acres of grassland at the Barreletown BCA just north of Mineral Point, and 335 acres of grassland at the Perry-Primrose BCA southwest of Madison. Hopes were high to continue building out these and two other BCAs with additional protected lands, but by this time, Wisconsin’s elected leaders, led by former Governor Scott Walker, began cutting state land conservation funding year over year. Where in 2009, DNR had \$32.5 million per year to purchase public lands, in 2025, the DNR has only \$6 million available for land acquisition statewide.

Despite all of these challenges, and perhaps to some degree because of them, a special group of public and private organizations came together to carry on the vision of securing Southwest Wisconsin as a place with healthy grasslands, successful farms, clear streams, diverse wildlife, and people who value and enjoy this landscape. Together, the Southern Driftless Grasslands (SDG) partners (driftlessgrasslands.org) work to advance this vision of landscape-scale conservation that can secure species by mitigating the effects of habitat fragmentation.

Driftless Area Land Conservancy (DALC) acts as the fiscal agent for SDG and we’re proud to work alongside conservation partners including Pheasants Forever, The Prairie Enthusiasts, The Nature Conservancy, American Bird Conservancy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Iowa County, Dane County, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the DNR, and others. Together, we strive to advance our mutual goals and those of our neighbors across this land, including that meadowlark.

Back in 2023 when DALC and SDG staff saw that “For Sale” sign, we realized the threat of housing in the core of the BCA was upon us and we had to act if given the chance.

Thanks to a willing seller and funding from Dane County’s Conservation Fund, the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, and the Bobolink Foundation, DALC purchased 83 acres in the core of the Perry-Primrose BCA earlier this year. Our acquisition – the first conservation purchase in a BCA since 2013 – included all of those 5-acre lots, each on a prairie remnant!

Those remnants, perched high on rocky soils so poor they escaped the plow, need substantial work to beat back the invading brush and grassland menaces like crown vetch, parsnip, and sweet clover. Still precious nature is holding on, with pasque flowers blooming on the site this past spring, and coreopsis, leadplant, and flowering spurge gracing the summer breezes.

Beyond working with SDG partners to restore the remnants and eventually seed down the remaining cropland to grass or prairie, we’re also pressing ahead to secure other sites for the birds by using a combination of land protection and restoration tools. We invite our neighbors to reach out so we can discuss opportunities for conservation easements, fee-title sales, and opportunities for cost-shared transitions of crop ground to grass for bird-friendly grazing. We also urge landowners to remove excess “edges” by clearing fence lines between fields. When doing so, leave any oak trees, but remove the brush and undesirable trees that have grown up in recent decades. And of course, whenever possible, avoid haying grasslands during the primary nesting season, from mid-May through at least the end of July, but ideally as late as August 15.



Hoary vervain growing in the prairie. Photo by Stephanie Judge

Finally, we also ask our whole community to raise your voices in support of renewing and re-establishing the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program (KNSP), which was left unfunded for Wisconsin’s biennial 2026 and 2027 budget. Without a KNSP grant, we couldn’t have bought this land, and we won’t be able to buy additional tracts to build out the BCAs, not just for the birds, but for future generations who deserve to experience a meadowlark’s song.

- Stephanie Judge (stephanie@driftlessconservancy.org)

LOWERY CREEK WATERSHED INITIATIVE – A DECADE-LONG STORY



Much like teaching, storytelling helps us learn. It forces us to boil-down complex experiences and reflect with hindsight, often revealing new

things. That's exactly what Lowery Creek Watershed Initiative partners are experiencing as we craft our 10+ year story for a project led by Community Conservation. Ours will be featured in a series of stories on their website showcasing community-based conservation efforts around the world.

It begins with place. Lowery Creek lies just south of Spring Green, a stream fed by springs and seeps that begins at Pleasant Ridge and flows into the Wisconsin River. This watershed spans 8,600 acres, just six-by-three miles in size, yet it is packed with iconic Driftless Area features and rich cultural history. Restoration efforts have revived remnant oak savannas, steep prairies, riparian wetlands, and the spring-fed stream. Karst formations - limestone eroded by water – include springs, caves, disappearing streams, and impressive outcrops. Pastures and contoured row crops reflect small-scale agriculture that thrives on hillsides and helps keep soil in place.

The area's location and rugged beauty have been home to Indigenous peoples, northern European settlers, rugged individualists, determined farmers, creative minds, and nature lovers throughout its history. Projectile points and cultural pieces unearthed by plows in nearby farm fields remind us of a time when early humans survived in these hills during glacial periods.

Starting in the 1700s, immigrants from Wales, Germany, and Norway settled here, drawn by a landscape that reminded them of home. Among them, arriving in the mid-1800s, were Goodwin Lowery and the Lloyd Jones family, elders of architect Frank Lloyd Wright who established his Taliesin estate and school here. The physical beauty and dramatic history of Taliesin, along with Wright's strong conviction that the natural and built environments should intertwine, cast a long shadow over this watershed. Today's residents share his creative, intentional spirit and deep connection with nature.

The area's most-prized natural treasures are its rich ecological mix, thanks to the varied topography, and its rare heritage breed brook trout. These fish disappeared after brown trout showed up, were re-discovered ten years ago, and are now thriving. Then there's the scenery: every place within the watershed is made more beautiful by the view it offers. From Taliesin, for example, you see unspoiled views of the Wisconsin River, the Welsh Hills, and Lowery Creek valley.

In 2014, a particular threat to Taliesin's viewshed sparked the beginnings of the Lowery Creek Watershed Initiative. The Hoyer farm, located directly across the road, went up for sale. Concerned about potential development, neighbors got involved and a local organic farmer, Gary Zimmer, stepped in to purchase the farm. He immediately partnered with Driftless Area Land Conservancy to place a conservation easement on the property.

That moment catalyzed broader conversations about protecting the area's values and quality of life. Discussions moved from kitchen tables to the General Store, Frank Lloyd

Wright's studio, and the Spring Green Community Library. By 2017, the partnership of neighbors and organizations had a name, a strategic plan, and structure. Driftless Area Land Conservancy offered to serve as the fiscal agent for the Lowery Creek Watershed Initiative, house a part-time coordinator, and assist with fundraising.

Our mission? To protect and nurture soil and water quality, natural areas, viewsheds, and cultural resources in the watershed by connecting the community to these resources and using science to guide us.

By "community", we mean both individuals and organizations within the watershed and anyone beyond it who wants to engage with what happens here. A steering committee, made of local residents and representatives from active organizations, leads the way (see side bar).

Everything we do helps achieve these four basic goals:

- Help agriculture thrive (We assist with land transitions, resource connections, and regenerative farming practices.)
- Manage our high quality natural resources well (We connect landowners with guidance and resources for restoration and management, and reach out to new neighbors.)
- Use science to guide us (We monitor Lowery Creek through Water Action Volunteers and promote other citizen science data collection and analysis.)
- Build community around conservation (We host monthly Evenings Afield educational and social events, plus annual workshops on how-to topics.)

One surprising discovery from crafting this story is how profoundly public policies and programs have impacted what we see on the land today, related to our goals. In the 1990s, the Town of Wyoming set the stage with its resident-driven comprehensive plan that identified preserving agricultural, natural, and cultural assets as a top priority. Since then, local organizations and landowners have helped achieve this through support from DNR's Landowner Incentive Program and Surface Water Grants, USFWS Partners in Wildlife program, the Farmland Preservation Program, Natural Resource Conservation Services programs, and other resources.

Landowners have also used conservation easements as a key tool, through the Driftless Area Land Conservancy and DNR's Streambank Protection Program. Formal designations have also played a role, as Taliesin is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway is a

Wetland of International Importance. The Wisconsin State Legislature created Taliesin Preservation, Inc. to provide programming support for Taliesin, a regional economic asset. It also established the Recreational Use Statute to provide strong liability protection for private landowners who offer public access for nature-based activities. In recent years, the DNR designated Lowery Creek a Class 1 trout stream (2021) and a Brook Trout Reserve (2024).

All of this profoundly shapes our land, resources, work, goals, and quality of life.

The coda to our story is this ... we want to be contagious! We want to inspire and motivate others the way we were inspired by the Valley Stewardship Network, Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance, Frank Lloyd Wright and Aldo Leopold, the land itself, and all who tended it before us. Fortunately, this is happening.

Evenings Afield attendees leave motivated and grateful to be part of a movement. Stream monitoring is now happening in two nearby watersheds. The collaborative spirit here attracted Savanna Institute and new landowners to move here. And that spirit has also resulted in 15 landowners (so far) committing to hosting 22 miles of the Driftless Trail through and beyond the watershed.

We invite any and all to help write our next chapters by engaging with Lowery Creek partners - take tours, hike trails, attend workshops, search websites for resources, pick blueberries, volunteer, spend an Evening Afield! And keep this in mind: you will inspire others by doing what you're doing.

- Barb Barzen (barb@driftlessconservancy.org)



Attendees gather for a streambank workshop. Photo by Barb Barzen

The Taliesin Viewshed. Photo by Barb Barzen



PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS:

Canopy Farm Management
Cates Family Farm
Driftless Area Land Conservancy
Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation
Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway
Iowa County Land Conservation Dept.
Otter Creek Organic Farm
Savanna Institute
Stapleton Family Farm
Taliesin Preservation
Town of Wyoming
Twin Crix

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



The harvest is right around the corner. I see it as equipment is cleaned up and fields begin to ripen. Neighbors prepare to bring crops in right as the summer tourists head home. The smell of grain drying and hay being harvested wafts around the hills of the Driftless. My garden is bursting with tomatoes and beans. A tiny harvest of my own reflecting the one happening in the larger landscape.

As the board president I am also seeing the Driftless Area Land Conservancy harvest a multitude of extraordinary opportunities right now. The relationships built with donors and volunteers like you are fruiting: unique properties for protection, collaborations for restoration and trail projects, and new avenues for organizational growth like at Wintergreen. It's truly an exciting moment in Driftless Area Land Conservancy history!

All this opportunity comes from the incredible efforts of Jennifer and staff to build those foundational relationships in the community. It comes from the hours of dedication from countless volunteers who pour their sweat and energy into giving back to the land. It comes from the hundreds of donors who stand up to say that the Driftless is special and should be protected. It comes from you. I'm so grateful to have you in our community making this historical moment possible.

While it is important to celebrate all the incredible opportunities and success we've had as a community, I hope you'll join me in digging a little deeper. Our community stands at a pivotal moment of land transfers, geopolitical upheaval, and local economic shifts. Your participation in conservation has never been more necessary. When we come together to protect the Driftless, we are choosing what seeds to plant next. Your gift, your time, your partnership is what will allow us to navigate these uncertain times and harvest the next round of opportunities for our community. Thank you for continuing to prioritize conservation in the Driftless.

Thank you,
Danni Niles, DALC Board President

A NEW FACE AT DALC

Welcome, Katie Cervenka, the newest member of the Driftless Area Land Conservancy team. A lifelong lover of the outdoors, Katie grew up exploring forests, lakes, and trails in Delafield, Wisconsin. Adventuring early in the Kettle Moraine State Forest, she developed a deep appreciation for nature that led her to pursue a degree in Wildlife Ecology and Life Sciences Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, along with a certificate in Environmental Studies.

Katie's journey has been shaped by a passion for connecting people with the land. From interning with the Ice Age Trail Alliance to writing science stories for UW-Madison's Department of Life Sciences



Communication, she has found a love for the intersection of natural resources and outreach. Now based in Madison, she brings energy and love for the Driftless to DALC. She has already been inspired by the stories and dedication of our community, and sees the shared mission as part of a larger ecosystem.

When she's not in the field, you might find Katie rock climbing, hiking, camping, or hunting down the best local eats. If you see her out and about, be sure to say hello—she's eager to learn your story, deepen connections, and continue building a vibrant, resilient community rooted in love for the land. Welcome Katie!



Bumblebee on wild Bergamont. Photo by USFWS Midwest Region

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 angie@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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Deane & Edith Arny | Lisa Luedtke |
| Anne Bachner | Nancy McGill |
| Chuck Bauer & Chuck Beckwith | Mark Mittelstadt & Brenda Gasch Mittelstadt |
| Sandra Bennett | Dale & Doris Moody |
| Helen Boley | Danni Niles |
| Doug & Sherry Caves | Bob Novy & Jan Froelich |
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DRIFTLESS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

www.driftlessconservancy.org

We're excited to have you join us out in the Driftless! Please register for these free events at www.driftlessconservancy.org/events.



Volunteers smiling. Photo by Barb Barzen

EVENINGS AFIELD

Monthly starting in May | 6pm - 8pm | Sites throughout Lowery Creek Watershed, south of Spring Green

Learn with peers and experts at the Lowery Creek Watershed Initiative's annual Evenings Afield series. This year's theme is citizen science, and will include topics like wildlife monitoring, invasive plants, water quality, dark skies, and other aspects of the natural world on private lands. All are welcome to attend.

ALL-DAY DRIFTLESS TRAIL WORKDAYS

October 3rd & October 4th | 9am - 4pm | Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center, Spring Green

To accelerate our work on the Welsh Hills ridge trail on the Taliesin property, Willie Bittner from Great Lakes Trailbuilders will lead two full-day work days. Come for all or part of these days. You will learn a lot about trail building and be rewarded with beautiful views, fun conversation, and pride in helping to build this impressive trail. No prior experience? No problem! We provide tools and training.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Ongoing | Driftless Trail and DALC nature preserves

Join us at monthly volunteer workdays in Argyle, Belleville, Mineral Point, and various Driftless Trail sites. Projects include habitat restoration, invasive species management, trash cleanup, trail maintenance, and more. Come enjoy the outdoors and make a difference!

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.

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