WINTER/SPRING 2026

DRIFTLESS

A Newsletter from the **Driftless Area Land Conservancy**



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Cover Photo: Stephanie Judge

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

GROWING WITH PURPOSE



Every spring, Gathering Waters, Wisconsin's coalition for land trusts, hosts a conference that brings us together for networking, camaraderie, and learning. This year, I was asked to speak at the opening session, a panel of land trust leaders reflecting on local successes in the land trust community. It was a welcome opportunity to reflect on how DALC has grown over the years, and how we are planning for the future using lessons from the past. Reflecting on our 26-year history, I see an organization founded on the principle of protecting and caring for land that has grown in response to community needs.

DALC started with a simple idea: landowners were asking for conservation easements, and there wasn't a land trust in our area. From those humble beginnings, we've grown into an organization with 10 full-time staff, more than 10,000 acres protected, 8 nature preserves, and the ambitious Driftless Trail taking shape. Just a few months ago, we protected some of the most important undeveloped acres on the Lower Wisconsin River, which happened to come with a 15,000 square foot building (read about Wintergreen on the next page)!

But this kind of growth can't happen without growing and strengthening our internal foundation. That (not very sexy but critically important) behind-the-scenes work includes updating and adding new policies and procedures. It includes investing in efficiencies like a comprehensive internal review of all of our conservation easements and overhauling our lands database software, and increasing administrative support of our growing volunteer network – waivers, trainings, safety protocols. And countless other internal infrastructure improvements.

Our Board of Directors has evolved as well. Once deeply involved in day-to-day operations, the Board now focuses on governance, providing strategic direction, strengthening financial sustainability, and ensuring we are well-positioned for the future. Their work establishing reserve funds, refining committee structures, and updating our bylaws and other policies helps ensure DALC remains resilient and ready to meet new challenges.

This strong and ever-improving foundation allows us to take strategic risks that have the potential to catalyze our impact, like the Wintergreen property.

At the same time, we recognize that we are living in a moment of uncertainty. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by events far beyond our control. But one message came through clearly in conversations with land trust colleagues across the state. That is, in times like these, our role is not to retreat, but to continue to serve our community the best way we can. To continue to take opportunities to do good, right here, right now, and make life just a little bit better where we can. This spring, visit a preserve, walk a trail, or take a scenic drive to take in the beauty of the Driftless Area. The lands we protect are here for you—go out and enjoy them.

Jennifer Filipiak
Executive Director
jennifer@driftlessconservancy.org



Fire backs steadily through a stand of young prickly ash. Photo by Kevin Mason.

A NEW CHAPTER FOR WINTERGREEN

In December of 2025, Driftless Area Land Conservancy (DALC) officially closed on the iconic Wintergreen property in Spring Green, permanently protecting 245 acres overlooking the Lower Wisconsin Riverway and welcoming this remarkable place into DALC's growing network of conserved lands across southwest Wisconsin.



DALC staff with Terry and Susanne Shifflet (bottom row, fourth and fifth from the left). Photo by DALC Staff

For many in the community, Wintergreen is already a familiar and cherished place. The property includes a 15,000 square-foot event center inspired by the work of Frank Lloyd Wright and sits near Taliesin, the architect's famed home and studio. Once a lively ski hill and lodge, Wintergreen welcomed generations of visitors who came to gather, celebrate, and take in the sweeping views of the river valley. Now, this beloved place is protected forever.

Wintergreen sits within the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, one of the Midwest's most significant natural landscapes. The surrounding wetlands, prairie, and oak savanna support a remarkable diversity of wildlife and contribute to the health of the broader watershed. The property also lies within a landscape DALC has long prioritized for protection, where intact habitats, working lands, and opportunities for people to connect with nature come together to shape the future of the Driftless Area.

Wintergreen will also serve as an important future access point for the Driftless Trail, a growing regional trail system connecting conserved lands and communities across southwest Wisconsin. As the trail continues to take shape, places like Wintergreen will help expand opportunities for people to experience the beauty of the Driftless landscape.

Since closing, DALC staff have already begun spending time on the land hiking the property, exploring possible trail routes, and beginning early stewardship work. Initial efforts will focus on assessing the land's ecological health, restoring native habitats, and planning future trail access that allows people to experience the landscape while protecting its natural character. At the same time, DALC is meeting with neighbors, community leaders, and local businesses to better understand how Wintergreen's building and grounds may serve the region in the years ahead. To help guide this planning, DALC has partnered with Vandewalle & Associates to conduct a feasibility study exploring potential future uses for the Wintergreen building and grounds. Through community conversations and site analysis, the process will help identify opportunities that align with conservation values while supporting the surrounding region. We look forward to sharing more as this work progresses.

Protecting Wintergreen would not have been possible without the generosity of donors, partners, and community members who stepped forward to help make this vision a reality. DALC is especially grateful to Terry and Susanne Shifflet and the many supporters who recognized the importance of protecting this remarkable place for generations to come.

Wintergreen represents both a milestone and a beginning. With this place now protected, DALC is rooted in the work ahead and ready to carry this vision forward. Through this work, we continue building a future where the lands and communities of the Driftless Area thrive together.



DALC Staff braves the cold to explore the Wintergreen property. Photo by Katie Cervenka.

THE RESTORATION SPARK AT ERICKSON WETLANDS - AND OUR JOURNEY SINCE

You might know how it feels – that moment you realize you have a rare plant or animal on your land – it's SO exciting! Sometimes you've made this discovery after years of hard restoration work – you've removed brush and burned a prairie remnant, and there it is – that flower you've never seen before is peaking up and vindicating your efforts! You feel so rewarded for the hard work and financial investments made.

Other times, the discovery can be daunting because that species is rare for a reason, usually having to do with declining habitat quality across the broader landscape. So, if you want to maintain its presence and viability on your site, you need to be proactive.

In 2012, DALC established the Erickson Wetlands Conservation Area after purchasing 220 acres on the Pecatonica River from Alex and Mary Erickson. Before this acquisition, DALC had only used conservation easements as a tool for land protection. Now the organization was ready to consider managing our own land, but we needed to start small. Over the years, DALC and dedicated volunteers pulled weeds, cut brush, planted a new prairie, and conducted a few prescribed fires in the site's oak savanna. This work was important and improved the site, but by 2022, we were ready to do more, and we needed to better understand the site's wetlands. If we didn't know what was there, we wouldn't be well-equipped to prioritize our restoration work across the property.



Wetland ecologists Pat Trochlell and Tom Bernthal surveying Erickson Wetlands along the entry boardwalk in the summer of 2022.

In the summer of 2022 – my first with DALC – wetland ecologists Pat Trochlell and Tom Bernthal surveyed the site's northeastern zone – a matrix of southern sedge meadow and emergent marsh. Southern sedge meadows have become exceedingly rare because so few remain intact. Many were drained for farming, and many more have been inundated with aggressive invasive plants like reed canary grass and hybrid cattail. Yet this area seemed to be in good shape. What was there, and what conditions were allowing it to persist?



Lesser purple fringed orchids grow in southern sedge meadow at the Erickson Wetlands Conservation Area. Conservation Director Stephanie Judge explored the meadow with her 4-year old son in 2023, and the orchids were as tall as he was!

Pat and Tom made some great discoveries, including northern manna grass (Glyceria borealis) and the lesser purple fringed orchid (Platantherea psycodes). This grass discovery was significant because the species had never been previously located in LaFayette County. And, while that particular orchid may be called "lesser," it was as tall as my four-year-old son! Pat and Tom also speculated that past human disturbance – in the form of an old railroad grade cutting through the preserve – had paradoxically spared this sedge meadow from Pecatonica River flooding that would have otherwise inundated the site with invasive seeds. Some of the site's sedge meadows and marsh were in excellent shape, but other areas were only fair because of altered hydrology and invasions by shrubs and cattails.

These discoveries – and the knowledge that we needed to take action to keep these special natural communities – sparked an era of more intensive restoration work at Erickson.

THE RESTORATION JOURNEY

To make any restoration journey successful, prioritize your site's gems, triage your site's worst weeds, and consider a step-wise, adaptive approach so you can stay focused, make progress where it matters most, and pivot if the site responds differently than you expect.

Pat and Tom's work determined that to maintain and expand Erickson's sedge meadows for those special orchids and other plants, DALC needed to reintroduce fire to that area as soon as possible. We also needed to begin removing excessive brush and trees along the meadows' perimeters.

Why? From a functional standpoint, fire would not carry from the site's trail firebreaks through dense shrubs and trees to reach the meadow, and it was impractical to install extensive burn breaks within the meadow itself. Furthermore, removing "predator perch" trees, opening up horizon lines, and removing hard edges along fields and trails creates more diffuse habitat for area-sensitive wildlife like ground-nesting birds that benefit from more space and softer edges. This work also increases biodiversity by expanding the area where sedges, flowers, and grasses can grow.



BEFORE forestry mowing along Erickson's primary walking trail, aggressive native shrubs like dogwood and willow had overtaken the sedge meadow's edges because no fire had kept them in check.



AFTER forestry mowing, sedges, milkweed and other herbaceous plants expand in areas previously dominated by shrubs. Forestry mowing in late 2024 maintained native shrubs like plums, viburnums and hazelnuts while cutting all dogwood, willow and invasive shrubs like honeysuckle and buckthorn.

DALC forestry mowed excessive woody shrubs from part of the sedge meadow's perimeter in 2024, covering almost 8 acres that first year. In the spring of 2025, DALC staff and volunteers reintroduced fire, burning the 71-acre sedge meadow and emergent marsh unit Tom and Pat surveyed years prior, as well as an adjoining 54-acre oak savanna unit fronting the Pecatonica River.



At the boardwalk entry to the site's main trail, BEFORE mowing dense shrubs to open up the sedge meadow for more flowers and grasses, as well as prescribed fire.



DALC successfully reintroduced fire to Erickson's rare sedge meadows in April 2025, burning 71 acres that hadn't experienced fire in decades, if not significantly longer. DALC Conservation Director Stephanie Judge with burn crew members from right, Andy Bingle (Southern Driftless Grasslands Partnership Coordinator), Shannon Roznoski (DALC Easement Stewardship Manager) and volunteer Ella Derosier.

In the summer of 2025, contractors conducted "woody resprout treatments" across areas mowed the previous fall, specifically targeting herbicide applications to invasive woody shrubs like buckthorn and honeysuckle that had been mowed and burned but that weren't yet killed.

This winter, DALC pressed ahead, clearing shrubs and thinning a 1990s-era swamp white oak and tamarack plantation remaining along the meadows' perimeter. We don't know what will come up from the seedbank in the plantation, but we expect it will be some mix of weeds and gems. With that likelihood in mind, we plan to monitor throughout 2026 so we can tackle problems while nurturing good surprises. We also plan to burn all 125 acres again this spring to help maintain our woody clearing gains by keeping aggressive native dogwoods and willows in check. In future years, we'll carry out our woody clearing, fire reintroduction, and weed work in other areas of the preserve.

As with any restoration process, this project is a journey – the proverbial marathon and not a sprint. We continually evaluate past progress and challenges, work to maintain our gains, and press ahead unit by unit as capacity allows. We remain inspired by that initial spark and know that any management we provide helps to keep rare species present today and for the future.

Written by Stephanie Judge, Conservation Director



Dan Roth (far left) working to clear brush with fellow DALC volunteers. Photo by DALC Staff.

FROM AEROSPACE TO OAK SAVANNAS: DAN ROTH'S JOURNEY TO CONSERVATION

For most of his professional life, Dan Roth worked in aerospace engineering, focusing primarily on modern rocketry and on creating sophisticated defense products for the free world. Attention to detail was critical. It was demanding work, requiring precision, patience, and the ability to see how many interrelated parts in motion all worked together.

But as retirement approached and family demands increased, Dan pivoted to full-time faculty role at Northwestern University before being drawn back to something closer to home.



Dan smiles while working along the Driftless Trail (pictured right). Photo by DALC Staff

Growing up with family involvement in farming and intrigued by his mother's love for gardening, he had always carried an appreciation for the natural world. After stepping away from his engineering and academia careers, he decided to follow that interest more intentionally. He completed Master Gardener and Master Naturalist trainings and began learning more about plants, ecosystems, and how people can care for the land. "There was a lot to absorb. Five years ago, I didn't know how to spell nature," Dan joked.

He immersed himself in the attraction, gathering knowledge fast. "I took every course, I listened to everybody, and I got every certification I could," Dan reflected. Slowly, the pieces began to come together.

Dan began to see the landscape as an interconnected system where soil, water, plants, and wildlife all interact. Understanding those relationships became part of the appeal. As a result, Dan became deeply involved in volunteering with multiple conservation organizations, focusing on habitat improvement and ecological restoration.

While searching for diversity in his volunteer activities, he found DALC's Driftless Trail project through an online search. "The Driftless landscapes and natural areas hooked me. It was the intrigue of the unknown, a place shaped without glaciers." Dan shared. He began devoting more of his volunteer efforts to support the construction of trails in the Driftless Area and relocated, committed in the belief that "being in nature is the best medicine ever".

Dan has contributed by helping build and review trail segments, offering feedback, and then following up on trail maintenance. His attention to detail and willingness to help have proven valuable in thinking through how trails move through the landscape and how they will hold up over time.

What keeps him coming back is the experience of being out on the land and the diverse community of people he meets. "The people are amazingly unique. This work draws like-minded individuals. People show up because they value it and genuinely want to be here. I'm especially amazed by the younger people trail building attracts."

Today, Dan remains deeply engaged in learning and volunteering. His journey from aerospace engineering to land stewardship may seem unlikely, but both require curiosity, patience, and understanding how complex systems work together. Through people like Dan, the beauty of the Driftless Area continues to be cared for, explored, and passed on to future generations. Thank you, Dan, for your generosity, your passion for learning, and your commitment to the Driftless Trail and the landscapes we all cherish!

DALC WELCOMES THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

People who care deeply for the Driftless Area often find their way here through different paths, but share a common commitment to stewardship, community, and the land itself. Rickey Chernik, Kathy Moody-Cefalu, and Gene Schriefer each bring unique experiences and perspectives shaped by their personal and professional lives, and by a shared belief in caring for this landscape.



Rickey Chernik grew up in southern Wisconsin and formed a deep connection to the Driftless Area through his family ties and life in Iowa County. As a trail runner and owner of Driftless Endurance, he creates events that highlight the region's terrain and help people experience it firsthand. With a background in events, marketing, and operations, he is passionate about building trails, supporting the Driftless Trail, and connecting people to the outdoors. He lives in Middleton with his family and is grateful to be part of a community that cares for this place.



Kathy Moody-Cefalu brings a lifelong connection to the Driftless Area, where her family roots run deep and where she now helps care for prairie, woodland, and wildlife habitat alongside her husband and parents. She spent her career with TDS Telecom, retiring as Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, and holds degrees from the University of Wisconsin–Platteville and Edgewood College. Kathy and her husband live on Lake Wisconsin, enjoying time with their children and grandchildren and continuing their commitment to caring for the land.



Gene Schreifer's passion for farming began on his grandmother's small New Jersey farm and led him to the Midwest, where he and his family purchased land in Iowa County in 1984. Guided by a philosophy of improving the land while making a living, he restored the farm's health, increasing soil resilience, wildlife, and productivity. Gene spent much of his career with University of Wisconsin Extension as a grazing specialist, later serving as Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency. Today, he and his wife continue to raise sheep and grass-finished beef on their restored Driftless farm.

Together, these three new board members reflect the diverse experiences and shared dedication that sustain the Driftless Area. Through recreation, professional leadership, and agricultural stewardship, each person contributes to a future where the land remains healthy, productive, and deeply connected to the people who call it home. We are so grateful to have you on the team.



Views of the Driftless landscape. Photo by Barb Barzen

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES BY ACTIVATING YOUR SUPERPOWER | A LOOK AT THE SUPERPOWERS OF PARTNERSHIPS

Written by Andy Bingle, Southern Driftless Grasslands Program Manager



Landowners participate in burning in burn breaks. Photo by Andy Bingle.

X-Men, The Avengers, The Powerpuff Girls, The Paw Patrol Pups. What do each of these teams have in common? They are a group of individuals working together, each bringing their own skill set and superpowers to overcome a challenge. The key to their success? The diversity of their powers. One may be fast, while the other is strong; one is a quick thinker, and the other is someone who can meditate and change the weather. It is only when their powers combine that they overcome the seemingly impossible feat they face.

I have the good fortune of working with superheroes who have superpowers every day. They don't shapeshift or control the elements. Instead, they bring relationships, connections, trust, technical expertise, and financial and human resources to make progress on complex conservation challenges. The superhero team I work with is called the Southern Driftless Grasslands (SDG) partnership, and we are a combination of non-profit and governmental agencies that are leveraging our superpowers to maintain and increase grasslands in Southwest Wisconsin.

Like any superhero team, we face evolving challenges. However, instead of facing a giant monster in downtown New York, our partnership experiences challenges in the form of shifting funding sources, limited capacity, changing policies, and unexpected disruptions.

Each time we face a challenge like this, we look across the partnership and ask: whose superpower can we leverage right now?

Here are three challenges we recently overcame as a partnership by leveraging partners' superpowers.

Challenge 1: Increasing Prescribed Fire on Private Lands.

Prescribed fire reduces brush and promotes plant growth that sustains and expands grasslands. In southwest Wisconsin, 95% of the land is privately owned, with most parcels between 40 and 200 acres. Increasing grasslands at a landscape scale, therefore, requires working with hundreds of private landowners to bring prescribed fire to their properties.

However, many landowners face barriers: limited technical skills, lack of social connections, and the high cost and limited availability of contractors. To address this, the SDG partnership pursued a multi-year grant to fund several full-time staff members who could develop an educational program helping landowners burn their own properties with neighbors and volunteers.

But no partner had previously secured a grant of that size for an SDG project. So the partnership asked...

"Who has the superpower to apply for, manage, and navigate a complex national grant in the name of an SDG initiative?"

Pheasants Forever raised their hand.

With experience securing and managing large federal grants and the capacity to hire full-time staff with partner support, Pheasants Forever (PF) applied for and received $750,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The three-year grant funds two staff members who help landowners implement prescribed burns.

In 2025 alone, the Prescribed Burn Education program engaged 68 landowners and community members through



Learn to Burn led by Pheasants Forever on Private Property in southwest Dane County. Photo by Andy Bingle.



Partners discuss strategies of how to protect remnant plant communities in southwest Wisconsin. Photo: Andy Bingle

three full-day trainings and 10 educational community burns, impacting 148 acres. It has also helped launch the exploration of self-sustaining, landowner-led Prescribed Burn Associations - an important step toward expanding prescribed fire on private lands in southwest Wisconsin.

Challenge 2: Securing and Managing Funds for Landowners to Manage their Land

After several months of burn training work, PF realized the prescribed fire education team needed additional funding for equipment and meeting expenses - costs not covered by the NFWF grant. The team also identified landowners interested in prescribed fire who lacked adequate burn breaks or had too much brush or trees to burn safely, and who could not afford to hire a contractor.

PF began searching for funding opportunities and identified the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Land Trust Bird Conservation Initiative grant. However, the grant preferred applications from accredited land trusts, which PF is not, and required an organization able to quickly distribute funds to landowners. So the partnership asked...

"Who has the superpower of being an accredited land trust and can administer and pass through funding to landowners to benefit the Prescribed Burn Education program?

The Driftless Area Land Conservancy raised its hand.

DALC, an accredited land trust with an already developed process for passing funds through to qualified landowner projects, applied for the grant. The result: DALC received $25,000 to support the SDG Prescribed Burn Education project led by PF staff. Of that amount, $15,000 will be distributed to at least ten landowners to implement management practices that benefit grassland birds in priority areas of southwest Wisconsin.

Challenge 3: Identifying Public Funding Sources for Land Protection

When a property comes on the market or a landowner considers a voluntary conservation easement, funding for the purchase typically comes from public grants. In Wisconsin, one of the most common sources was the state's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

However, 2026 marked the first time since the 1980s that the program was not reauthorized, leaving partners without a key source of funding for land protection. At the same time, federal grants for land protection have substantially slowed or stalled outright. So the partnership asked...

"Who has the superpower to provide more access to public funding for land protection projects?"

Dane County raised their hands.

In response to different partners communicating the difficulty they are facing with a lack of state and federal funding sources, Dane County increased its Conservation Fund budget for 2026 and increased its possible project funding percentage from 50% to 75%.

Change: The Only Constant

If there is one constant in conservation, it is change. Budgets fluctuate, policies change, and landownership shifts. The systems that continue to make a difference are those resilient to change. And one of the most reliable sources of resilience is strong networks - networks of people and organizations who leverage each other's superpowers and step forward when the moment calls.

The provided examples demonstrate how the SDG partnership draws on the strengths of each partner to remain resilient. I see these superpowers in action every day: acting quickly on land purchases, rallying support for a partner pursuing a grant, or turning to someone with technical expertise on how a Regal Fritillary butterfly might respond to changes in vegetation. These contributions happen so often that they sometimes go unnoticed.

But superpowers aren't limited to agencies, organizations, Avengers, or little dogs in uniforms - we all have them, including you. On your next bird walk or drive to the grocery store, ask yourself: What is my superpower? What role do I play in this system?

When we recognize our place within a larger system - and the strengths others bring - collective action becomes possible. And collective action brings real results in a changing world, whether that means expanding grasslands across a landscape, influencing change in your community, or helping a neighbor care for their land.

So talk with your neighbor. Volunteer. Go for a walk with a group. Most importantly, stay engaged.

To infinity and beyond.

DALC is the coordinating member of Southern Driftless Grasslands who actively supports the conservation of grasslands in Southwest Wisconsin to benefit the region's wildlife, water, farms, and communities.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hopefully, "Old Man Winter" has sent his final message for this year, and the hint of spring and the awakening land in our beautiful Driftless Area grows more visible each day. Like you, I am certainly looking forward to the longer days, warmer sun, and first buds of our varied flora.

Spring is such a hopeful season. Perhaps even more so this year, following a long, bitter winter and in the midst of a world that has felt uncertain and chaotic. For us here at the Driftless Area Land Conservancy (DALC), the rebirth of the gray and barren landscape to green fields, prairie flowers, emerging leaves, and the sounds of returning song birds provides all of us with hope for the season ahead as we seek to continue to preserve and protect more of our beautiful region and connect people to this special land. I believe the connection we share with the natural world is essential to our well-being and to the vitality of our broader community.

We share that sense of hope and deep gratitude for the continued support of donors and volunteers like you, which is so vital to our mission. Your commitment makes it possible to protect more land, expand the Driftless Trail, bring people together through programs like Evenings Afield, and advance major efforts like opening the recently acquired Wintergreen property in Spring Green to the community. We hope that your support brings a personal sense of connection and fulfillment, knowing you are helping ensure that the natural beauty of this region can be experienced and cared for, whether in quiet moments of solitude or alongside a community of others who love the Driftless as you do.

I do hope you will have a chance this spring to explore one of our beautiful properties, attend one of our educational events, or volunteer with staff and other supporters to experience the beauty that surrounds us.

This is an exciting time of growth and emerging opportunity for Driftless Area Land Conservancy. Together, we continue to work diligently to honor your trust and support, making a difference in protecting, preserving, and connecting people to the land.

Happy Spring!

Tim Connor, DALC Board President

WELCOME, KEVIN MASON, DALC'S PRESERVES MANAGER!

Kevin first came to Wisconsin to attend Lawrence University, and aside from a brief chapter in the Pacific Northwest, the state has been home ever since. Over the years, he has built a career centered on restoring landscapes and helping people connect to them in meaningful ways. Most recently, Kevin spent nearly eight years working with Quercus Land Stewardship Services, where he partnered with private landowners, municipalities, and public agencies to design and carry out ecological restoration projects across southern Wisconsin.



At DALC, Kevin oversees the management and monitoring of our nature preserves and Driftless Trail segments. His work helps guide these lands towards long term ecological health through practices such as prescribed fire, grazing, and other restoration tools. Just as important, Kevin works closely with partners and staff to ensure stewardship efforts are collaborative, thoughtful, and grounding in care for both the land and the people who experience it.

Kevin is especially drawn to stewarding publicly accessible lands and to the many ways people form connections with natural places. He believes those relationships strengthen individual and community wellbeing, and a perspective that aligns closely with DALC's mission.

Outside of work, Kevin enjoys spending time outdoors hiking, camping, paddling, skiing, and biking, often alongside his family. He is also a musician and songwriter who finds inspiration in the natural world, and on clear nights, he can sometimes be found in his backyard gazing at distant galaxies through a telescope.

We are grateful to welcome Kevin to DALC, and look forward to the care, curiosity, and leadership he will bring to our preserves and trails across the Driftless Area.



Photo by DALC staff

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
Anne Bachner
Chuck Bauer & Chuck Beckwith
Sandra Bennett
Helen Boley
Doug & Sherry Caves
David Clutter & Meredith Porembski
Anne & Tim Connor
Jennifer Filipiak
Frank Grenzow
Douglas Gurak & Mary Kritz
Larry Hartzke
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Sharon Stark & Peter Livingston
Mary Trewartha
Susan Trudell
Marta Voytovich & Laurie Gauper
Doug White & Gayle Alexander

Welcome New Driftless Legacy Society Members

With heartfelt thanks, we welcome the newest members of the Driftless Legacy Society, whose commitments will help protect and care for the Driftless Area's beauty for generations to come.

Jan & Linda Anderson
Andy Burkhart
Jill Metcoff
Kirk Mueller
Caroline Beckett & Frank Sandner

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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.**



Photo by DALC Staff.

EVENINGS AFIELD

Monthly starting in May | 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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Ongoing | Driftless Trail and DALC nature preserves

Join in 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.

EVENTS: DRIFTLESSCONSERVANCY.ORG/EVENTS
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