

A NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF TALL PINES CONSERVANCY
Fall/Winter 2014

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Join Tall Pines
Conservancy!

Get involved and join TPC today.
Visit www.tallpinesconservancy.org
or call 262-369-0500.

Ride to the Barns Draws in Hundreds of Bicyclists to Support TPC's Mission

An early morning fog began to lift as hundreds of riders descended on Camp/Quad for the 6th Annual Ride to the Barns on Saturday, August 23rd. Delicious locally-sourced food, live music and the opportunity to experience the farms and open spaces of beautiful Lake Country have always been top reasons for the success of this event. For TPC, it serves as our biggest event fundraiser - and as an opportunity to share the mission of our organization.



photo by Dan Sheldon

This year, we asked our riders in a post-event survey to let us know if our message is hitting home. We wanted to know if the riders were understanding the importance of preserving our rural character through land conservation - or are the participants just interested in a fun ride?

(continued on PAGE 5)

TPC Partners with Oconomowoc to Improve Water Quality

Tall Pines Conservancy has partnered with the City of Oconomowoc on an innovative and exciting program called **Adaptive Management** to improve the water quality of the many lakes and rivers in the Oconomowoc River Watershed.

and agricultural land in order to improve water quality. This will, in turn, enable the City to reach compliance with the Department of Natural Resources wastewater and storm water permit requirements in a cost-effective manner.

Goal

The ultimate aim of the project is to reduce non-point source pollution from urban storm water, construction sites,

(continued on PAGE 4)



A Lovely Evening at Monches Farm

Recently, friends of Tall Pines enjoyed a special evening at picturesque Monches Farm, a lovely garden center nestled in the heart of the Kettle Moraine in the shadow of Holy Hill and next to the Oconomowoc River.



(from left) Faye Wetzel, Lynn Laufenberg, and Mary Jane Laufenberg

Photos by Jill Bedford at Monches Farm

According to TPC Board Member attendee John Syburg,

"Monches Farm is an amazing place! It's not often that you get to wander freely and see all that they have to offer. The gathering was a casual, relaxed way to inform our supporters about current events at Tall Pines, and at the same time enjoy a beautiful summer evening with great food provided by The Oconomowoc Lake Club. Monches Farm was also kind enough to contribute to the event by keeping their doors open late and donating 10% of all the proceeds from purchases that night. This was a fantastic event that I hope we can repeat in the future," John said.

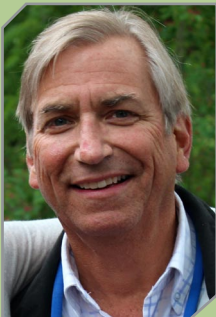


Barbara and Mike Neuworth

Special thanks to those who donated items for our silent auction: Jill Bedford Photography, Robert Brumder, Clear Water Outdoor, Gallery 1 Delafield, Kim Herro - Church Metal, LaBelle Cheese, Mike Herro - Oconomowoc Realty, Paul and Laura Phelps, Salisbury Hill Ltd./ Monches Farm LLC, Santosha and Weiss Berzowski Brady.

We also wish to thank Lakefront Brewery and Sweet Mullets Brewery for providing refreshments. ▲

The Charles P. Brumder Fund



We have dedicated a fund in memory of Charles P. Brumder. The fund is for stewardship of our properties in perpetuity.

If you wish to donate, please use the enclosed envelope or visit the TPC Web site - www.tallpinesconservancy.org. You have the option to provide your donation to Tall Pines Conservancy through a monthly giving program.

Did You Know?

You can arrange for a recurring monthly contribution of support through your credit card. Your credit card will be charged the amount you indicate on a monthly basis. Simply visit <http://tallpinesconservancy.org/become-a-member-of-tall-pines-conservancy/>. Click on the PayPal button and click on the box **Make This Recurring (Monthly)**. You may cancel your plan at any time.

Please watch for our annual membership letter, which will be arriving near the Thanksgiving holiday. ▲

Are You a Watershed Specialist or Marketing Guru?

Tall Pines is looking for two talented people to join our committees. If you have background, education or expertise in the areas of watersheds or if you know of someone, we'd love to hear from you. We also could use a dynamite marketing and/or public relations person to round out our communications committee.

Contact Susan at
Susanb@tallpinesconservancy.org



Camp/Quad Provides Diverse Outdoor Classroom For University Lake School Students

ULS Life Science, Biology, AP Environmental Science Teacher Steve Tomasini and ULS Middle School Social Studies/AP Human Geography Teacher Francis Dempsey had a unique opportunity to take the learning process outside of the classroom - and on to the open land - with their students. During a fall hike at Camp/Quad showcasing many of the plant communities and glacial geology with TPC's Jill Bedford, students heard from UW-Green Bay research student Reena Patel-Bowman about her garlic mustard research being conducted in Camp/Quad's archery woods in an effort to control this invasive species. In addition to viewing the garlic mustard plots, the students had a chance to perform an interactive earth worm study on the land.

Many thanks to Quad/Graphics for their long-term stewardship of Camp/Quad, a 325-acre property under a conservation easement with Tall Pines Conservancy. They have been very generous in sharing this important resource for educational opportunities and as a venue for events large and small. ▲



Students looking for earthworms



TPC Executive Director, Susan Buchanan, talks about wetlands



ULS students at Camp/Quad

Board Member Spotlight -

Jeff Spence

Jeff Spence's family history in northwestern Waukesha County stretches back to the 1930s. During his childhood, our area was a vast expanse of farmland and open space. Over the years, Jeff has witnessed the steady influx of commercial and residential development - some projects were positive while others were less thoughtfully conceived. That's why, when Bill Biersach approached him at a dinner party in 1999 about joining the board of a local land conservancy, he said yes - despite an already full plate of volunteer responsibilities.



Jeff Spence

In 1999, the organization that would become Tall Pines Conservancy was known as the Chenequa Land Conservancy. Dedicated board members met around a dinner table - there was no staff, and the geographic focus was limited to the Village of Chenequa. Spence recalled how the addition of Jeff Harris to the group was a significant turning point in the evolution of the organization.

(continued on PAGE 4)

Board Member Spotlight...

(from PAGE 3)

"As a forward thinking individual, Jeff Harris provided structure. He knew what needed to be done and how to bring in the resources necessary to make it happen," he said.

In 2008, TPC's first Executive Director was hired. Over time, Tall Pines has expanded its mission to preserve our rural heritage by protecting remaining farmland, water resources and natural areas and open spaces impacting Northwestern Waukesha County. This transition was made with a great deal of thought and consideration.

"To grow, you need a good crystal ball and be willing to change with the times. Therefore, it is imperative that we always look toward the future needs of our organization and the community through long-term strategic planning. Our current board reflects a greater diversity of geographic and professional backgrounds that have added a wealth of knowledge and energy to TPC. And, the accreditation process validates our approach to our members," Spence concluded.

During Jeff's tenure, he has served for many years in the roles of treasurer and assistant treasurer as well as being a member of the Finance Committee. Jeff was instrumental in implementing an integrated accounting software solution to meet the evolving needs of TPC. He continues to assist staff with a variety of day-to-day financial questions. Jeff will be transitioning off the board to the advisory board in 2015. We all join in thanking him for his many years of continued service. ▲

TPC Partners with Oconomowoc to Improve Water Quality... (from PAGE 1)

The Adaptive Management Program aims to prevent pollutants from getting into the waterways through improved conservation practices such as:

Incorporation of cover crops, buffer filter strips and improved tillage practices on agricultural land, implementation of agricultural nutrient management plans, and agricultural conservation easements.

Leaf collection practices and urban property best management practices such as rain gardens, porous pavement, infiltration basins, retention ponds, and residential fertilizer control.



Implementation of an aggressive street cleaning program and storm water best management practices.

Benefits

Improved water quality in the Oconomowoc River, Rock River area streams and lakes

Enhanced aquatic and wildlife habitat

Reduced aquatic weed growth and algal blooms in area lakes and waterways



Role

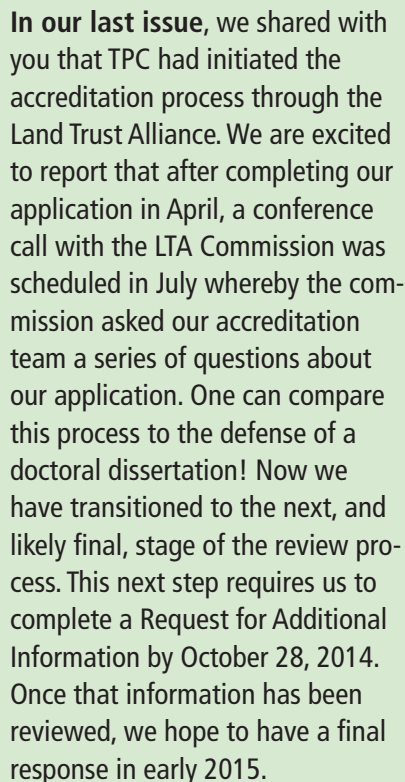
Tall Pines Conservancy will be working with willing landowners to place Agricultural Conservation Easements on their properties. These easements offer not only land protection in perpetuity, but also require the implementation of best management practices.

Funding

The City of Oconomowoc has applied to the Regional Conservation Partnership Program for a Grant. This application includes Tall Pines Conservancy as its major partner, as well as 55 other stakeholders and partners including lake management groups, governmental bodies, private landowners, land conservation districts, producers and crop consultants, environmental groups and universities. Grant awards will be announced in November. ▲



Update on Accreditation



By earning accreditation, TPC will be able to demonstrate to you that we meet the highest national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. This journey, which began many months ago, has been challenging, enlightening and rewarding for not only our staff, but also our board and our accreditation committee.

"Out of 50 land trusts in Wisconsin, currently eight are accredited. It is our goal to earn this high level of accountability for our members, landowners and supporters," said **Susan Buchanan, Executive Director.** ▲

The result? A HOME RUN!! The vast majority of respondents said they really like and understand our mission! Want to learn more? Please visit our Web site - www.tallpinesconservancy.org. We also invite you to contact us at any time for more information - 262-369-0500.

We couldn't have done it without you! Ride to the Barns sponsors, hosts and volunteers were invited to enjoy locally-sourced appetizers and refreshments, along with lively conversation at **Natural Way Cafe** in Mayville on Wednesday, September 17th. The owner, Chef Earl Gesling, is the creator of all the delicious food served at the Ride to the Barns rest stops. ▲



Music at Solset Farm



Serenity Farm rest stop



Post-ride party at Camp/Quad

THE OAKMARK FUNDS

QuadGraphics

R.A. Smith National
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NATIONAL INSURANCE SERVICES

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SUMMERSTAGE

PROHEALTH CARE
WEST WOOD
HEALTH & FITNESS CENTER

TOWN & COUNTRY
Responsible Communities

Green Team

NuGenesis Farm

Other logos visible include: KOEPEKE FAMILY FARMS, TREK, Wheel & Sprocket, GE, Weiss Berowski Brady LLP, PACTIMO, Merganser Fund, Organic Valley, and various university and foundation logos.

Upcoming 2015 Tall Pines Events!



✓ SnowSki at Camp/Quad Saturday, February 21st

Participate in guided snow shoe, cross country skiing or hiking tours or venture out independently. Camp/Quad is considered to be one of the most pristine natural and geologically significant areas in Southeastern Wisconsin. Hot beverages and chili will be served. \$10 per adult/\$5 per child.

✓ Earth Day Beer Tasting Event at Sweet Mullets Wednesday, April 22nd

Join us for a round of beer tasting at our local Oconomowoc brew pub. Tasting will include a new version of Tall Pines Heritage Beer, and a locally sourced food buffet.

✓ Nature Walk at Camp/Quad Thursday, June 18th

Learn how to read the landscape, identify plant communities and discover how they work together to form a healthy ecosystem. Refreshments will be served. \$10 per adult/\$5 per child.

✓ 7th Annual Ride to the Barns Saturday, August 22nd

A bike tour through 4 counties highlighting preserved farms and local foods.

✓ Fall Harvest Saturday, September 26th

A celebration honoring our heroes in farmland preservation featuring hayrides, boot tapping music, and scrumptious locally grown food, all at a signature farm.



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