

Green Lake Conservancy - 2011 Highlights

So, what did the Green Lake Conservancy accomplish during 2011? Apart from monthly meetings, numerous noteworthy activities engaged the all-volunteer member board throughout the year.

A donor's story: Heidi and Martin Lindsay Land Gift In land trust parlance this story is a classic example of gifted land becoming protected in perpetuity. It began with a phone call by high school student Jason Fischer to Heidi (Walker) and Martin Lindsay. For an Eagle Scout project Jason proposed a pier be constructed to launch kayaks and canoes on the Lindsay property along Silver Creek on the north side of Spaulding Hill Road bridge. Heidi and Martin believed the project held merit, but were unsure how the property could be properly managed once the project was complete.



According to Martin, "Over dinner we were discussing the project with Jim Walker who thought that the [Green Lake] Conservancy may be the best home for the 1.5-acre property. That was our "eureka" moment given that this location had been used by the public for small craft launching and fishing for as long as we could remember and would be very much in line with the operating goals of the Conservancy."

Jason Fischer then contacted volunteer Conservancy member Peter Vandervelde who donated pier sections and assisted with the pier installation.

The upshot? Heidi and Martin are pleased to know that the Silver Creek shoreland will remain protected forever. Jason Fischer is earning his Eagle Scout rank. The Conservancy extended the Silver Creek Water Trail by providing public-access to the Spaulding Bridge Landing.



To Heidi and Lindsay Martin we say "Thank you." To Jason Fischer we say "Well done, Scout." To Peter Vandervelde, "You make a difference."

This Green Lake donor story is surely what Aldo Leopold meant when he said: *Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land.*

LEAP and Land Trust Alliance To underscore the Green Lake Conservancy's commitment to excellence, it is one of six Wisconsin non-profit land trusts selected by Gathering Waters Conservancy and the Land Trust Alliance to voluntarily become a nationally accredited land trust through the Land Trust Excellence & Advancement Program. In July the Conservancy and representatives from Gathering Waters Conservancy met in Green Lake to discuss strategies for meeting accreditation requirements.

GLC Annual Retreat The annual Conservancy retreat was hosted by the Dave and Mike Norton families' "special place" called *Avalon*

on the Fox River. During this full-day of land trust work and reflection, a business meeting was followed by a review of accreditation led by Kate Zurlo-Cuva, Land Trust Program Director with Gathering Waters



Conservancy. Conservancy members will continue to collaborate with state and national land trust leaders as they work toward national accreditation.

Land Trust Story

In August, Conservancy members Robert Burke, Thomas Eddy and Bur Zeratsky were joined by Gathering Waters Conservancy's Land Trust Program Director, Kate Zurlo-Cuva and Program Assistant, Conor Moran. The meeting place? On a pontoon boat on Green Lake. Kate and Conor interviewed and filmed the Green Lake Conservancy's story and posted this "Land Trust Story" on the Gathering Waters website. The video can be viewed at: <http://www.gatheringwaters.org/>

Green Team Events



The Green Lake Conservancy is a participant in Green Lake's own "Green Team." 2011 proved to be an event-filled year that included public-attended events such as: a moonlight winter walk on Hammer's Trail; a firsthand view

of an American chestnut stand by the man who pioneered their propagation, Mr. Del Christensen; Native American mounds in the Green Lake area; bird watching at Sunnyside Conservancy; a walk (*and taste*) through a maple sugar bush; tour of a sustainable farming operation; and a canoe/kayak trip on the Silver Creek Water Trail.

Lake Management Plan

As a proven strategic lake partner, the Green Lake Conservancy is a member of a core team embarked on preparation and implementation of a comprehensive lake management plan for Green Lake and surrounding watershed. The Conservancy, like its lake partners, offers a distinctive Green Lake perspective, experiences, and skill sets that bode well for sustaining Green Lake waters and its watershed well into the next century.

