

Scenic Views

Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy

Volume 1, Issue 1

A message from the President

Dear Friends of MALC,

We are happy to report on our organization's new and exciting accomplishments. First of all, we have our very first employee, Greg Kowalski. Greg is an AmeriCorps member who has been hired to help establish the Friends of Franklin Park organization. This group will assist in preserving and managing the Franklin Savanna State Natural Area. So far he has proven to be a valuable asset and we look forward to accomplishing great things with him on board. (See Page 3 of this newsletter for more about Greg). Secondly, we have our first "real" office. It is located in the historic Stahl-Conrad Homestead, an 1870's cream city brick farmhouse on 2.5 acres of land with beautiful old oak trees and a prairie garden. It's great to have a place where we can keep things better organized and meet the public. I hope you can join us for our Open House later this month. Also, be sure to visit our new website:

www.mkeconservancy.org.

Even with all these changes, we have not forgotten our mission. MALC is currently involved with a coalition of groups working to preserve Seminary Woods in St. Francis, one of the best remaining natural areas in Milwaukee County. We are also continuing the restoration and maintenance of our two sites, Carity Prairie and Fitzsimmons Woods.

We feel we are poised to do great things. One of our goals is to keep you better informed and provide more opportunities for you be involved. We truly appreciate your support!

Delene Hanson

President, Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy



MALC part of MC3 Reorganization

MALC Board members Delene Hanson, Kristen Wilhelm, and Richard Barloga along with Outreach Coordinator Greg Kowalski were present for the Milwaukee County Conservation Coalition (MC3) reorganization meeting on November 6th, 2007. They joined representatives of roughly two dozen organizations that were present to strategize and plan out the next phases of MC3.

Four priority issue topics were selected by the group. MC3 will direct its efforts toward development of action plans around these four issues: green space protection, transit and transportation, river/lake shoreline protection and quality, and government accountability on environmental issues. Working groups were formed to develop campaigns on these priorities.

Inside this issue:

<i>MALC Site Updates</i>	2
<i>Goodsearch with MALC</i>	2
<i>Franklin Savanna State Natural Area</i>	3
<i>New Board members and Advisors</i>	4
<i>Seminary Woods</i>	5
<i>Current & Upcoming Events</i>	6

Special points of Interest:

- MALC's new website is www.mkeconservancy.org
- MALC's new address is 9724 W Forest Home Ave, Hales Corners, WI 53130-1618
- MALC will be working with other groups to preserve Seminary Woods
- MALC has its first employee, Greg Kowalski



MALC “Site” Updates

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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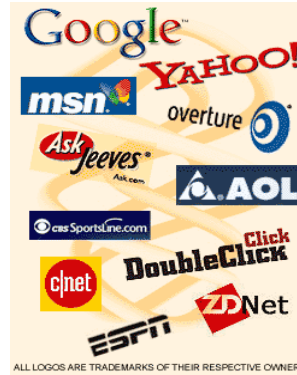
Outreach

Coordinator, FSSNA
Greg Kowalski

The MALC website is sporting a brand new look, and a new domain. From the original website linked with Board President Delene Hanson, MALC has taken the step forward and registered a domain name and created its own website—www.mkeconservancy.org.

This site will provide up-to-date information on current news within MALC, MALC fundraisers, volunteer opportunities, and access to important information on the organization.

As MALC looks toward the future, this website will be the best way to link members with the Board and coordinate MALC’s



direction.

As for the properties MALC owns, invasive species removal is an ongoing process at both the Carity Prairie and Fitzsimmons Woods.

MALC continues to look for grants and sponsors for these sites, as well as for the Franklin Savanna.

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer for work parties, please contact the general MALC e-mail: malc@mkeconservancy.org

Donate to MALC by simply searching or shopping!

In December, 2007 MALC joined the Goodsearch online search site.

Through Goodsearch, MALC will be able to receive roughly 1.4 cents for every search, and up to 37% of online purchases on various sites.

MALC encourages you to go to www.goodsearch.com and type in “Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy” in the “What charity would you like to support?” box.

Goodsearch is powered by the Yahoo! Search engine, which provides you with the same high standards of searching while still helping out MALC.

Online stores participating in “Goodshop,” accessible through the Goodsearch site, include such retailers as Best Buy, Wal-Mart, Target, Kohl’s, Macy’s, The Home Depot, eBay, Amazon.com, Gap, J. Crew, Barnes & Noble, Nordstrom, Sears, Travelocity.com, and many more!



New address and office for MALC

Taking a huge step forward, and to accommodate new employee Greg Kowalski of FSSNA, MALC Board members donated time toward turning an old master bedroom at the Stahl-Conrad Homestead in Hales Corners into MALC’s new office space.

The Stahl-Conrad Homestead deserves a big thank you for their kindness and generosity in assisting MALC by lending some of the homestead to us.

So if there’s anything that needs to be mailed to MALC—our new address is:

9724 W Forest Home Avenue, Hales Corners, WI 53130-1618



Shooting Star—Courtesy of Kristen Wilhelm

MALC leads successful FSSNA Next Steps Meeting

Franklin Savanna State Natural Area (FSSNA) is a 85.6 acre site located on Oakwood Road in the City of Franklin. This rare habitat consists of floodway, floodplain, and associated wetlands along Ryan Creek. Adjacent upland communities, include degraded oak savanna remnants, scattered open and forested wetlands, and row-cropped agricultural fields and pastures. The conservation value of the FSSNA is recognized for containing elements of mesic oak savanna or oak opening, one of the rarest plant communities in Wisconsin.

A broad group of organizations, businesses, and governments are coming together to preserve, protect, and revitalize the savanna.

On February 27th, 2008, individuals representing the WDNR, Milwaukee County, the City of Franklin, MALC, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, and many others met at the Franklin Public Library to discuss the site's next steps.

Thanks to this meeting, a set of goals was promoted:

1. MALC and Milwaukee County will seek grants and corporate sponsorships to help fund restoration of the site.
2. The City of Franklin will begin looking into rezoning the land in and around the savanna as a conservancy district.
3. To begin a series of volunteer work parties under the direction of Milwaukee County and MALC's land management team.



An example of an oak savanna. This is how we hope to restore the Franklin Savanna.



Consulting Ecologist Susan Lehnhardt of Applied Ecological Services is shown presenting the restoration plan for the Franklin Savanna State Natural Area.

4. To create an endowment for the site for maintenance and other upkeep.
5. To provide an opportunity to tour similar sites with Dr. Jim Reinartz of the UWM Field Station for educational purposes.

A Friends of Franklin Park meeting will be held in the coming weeks to begin the volunteer sign-up process. Please check the Get Involved page on the MALC website for dates and times for this event.

To make a contribution for the FSSNA, please fill out the form provided in this Newsletter or go to our Membership page on the MALC website and fill out one of the three options provided – a pledge form, membership form, or send a contribution via PayPal.

New land management team created for MALC's properties

As MALC looks into the future, management of our properties is a topic of notice. The MALC Board wants to ensure that the properties under its control will be managed and maintained properly.

Because of this, the MALC Board held a special meeting in late February and decided to create a land management team to provide oversight of the lands MALC owns, and to provide more insight on future land acquisitions.

The MALC land management team consists of Mike Marek, Jim Uhrinak, and Richard Barloga. All three have knowledge and expertise in management and restoration of native ecosystems.



An example of a controlled burn for management purposes

MALC welcomes new Board member and Advisor

The MALC Board has appointed Mary Beth Driscoll to fill the unexpired term of John Siepmann, who resigned from the Board because of time constraints.

We thank John for his years of service to our organization, and his continued support as an Advisor to the MALC Board.

Mary Beth Driscoll has many years of experience in the realm of nonprofit organizations. She is currently the Executive Director of Groundwork Milwaukee, a local group dedicated to providing cost effective project development services focused on improving their communities' environment, economy and quality of life.

Mary Beth is also active in the Milwaukee County Conservation Coalition, and was the moderator of the key meeting discussed on the front page of this newsletter.

The MALC Board also approved Frederick Klimetz as an advisor to the MALC Board of Directors. Fred is an attorney, municipal judge, and the former Mayor of the City of Franklin.

MALC believes that the new additions will further enhance the organization's ability to work on future projects.



An AmeriCorps member is doing restoration work on Milwaukee County property.

Mary Beth oversees AmeriCorps teams to work on these sites.

The Benefits of MALC Membership

Join MALC Today!

When you make a tax-deductible contribution to MALC, you not only become a member, but you become a steward in supporting the Milwaukee area's natural features for generations to come.

Membership benefits include events, volunteer opportunities, periodic newsletters and special tours and educational opportunities led by MALC's many natural resource and land management experts.



Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy

9724 W. Forest Home Ave.
Hales Corners, WI 53130-1618

Phone: 414-427-1901
E-mail: malc@mkeconservancy.org

Membership

Membership Level	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> New Growth	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Oak	\$36-99
<input type="checkbox"/> Maple	\$100-499
<input type="checkbox"/> Beech	\$500-999
<input type="checkbox"/> Forest	\$1000+
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount	<input type="text"/>

Method of Payment

- Check
 Cash
 PayPal (Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express, Bank)

(Send payment to:
malc@mkeconservancy.org)

Name _____
 Address _____

 Phone _____

Use my contribution for:

- General MALC Operations Carity Prairie
 Franklin Savanna Fitzsimmons Woods
 Seminary Woods

MALC's first employee: Gregory Kowalski, Outreach Coordinator—FSSNA

First, I'd like to thank the Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy for giving me this wonderful opportunity to assist and coordinate on a parcel of land minutes from my Franklin home.

To give a little background on myself, I have just turned 21 last December, am going to college for Business Management courses, and come from a mid-sized household—Mom, step-dad, 2 sisters, and our dog Cody. I currently hold the title of Vice Chairman on the Franklin Environmental Commission, and am also a blogger on FranklinNOW.com.

Ever since my family moved to Franklin in 1997, we have enjoyed its rural and natural aspects. Out of all of suburban Milwaukee County, Franklin I feel is home to many huge opportunities and has unlimited potential when it comes to its various natural areas.

Kristen Wilhelm, Chairman of the Franklin Environmental Commission, approached



me with this job opportunity knowing how concerned I am with the “flow” of development and natural areas together.

I have been working for MALC and the Franklin Savanna State Natural Area for a little over 5 months, and my term expires at the end of September. So far, I have seen

many items accomplished for MALC, including a FSSNA brochure.

If there are any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate in contacting me here at the office or through e-mail.

Seminary Woods and MALC

A broad partnership of local residents, environmental groups, land conservation groups, & government entities joined their efforts under the umbrella of the Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy to provide long-term protection of the site. They are working now to help permanently protect 60 acres of Seminary Woods and ensure its health for future generations.

What You Can Do

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund is a state program that grants funds for the purchase & preservation of significant state lands. An application is being made, but we need your help to garner widespread support for using stewardship funds for Seminary Woods. This woods is sacred ground; home to giant trees and rare plants and animals.

Contact the WDNR, Governor, your legislators, and local representatives, and tell them to support the stewardship fund and the effort to Protect & Preserve Seminary Woods. Sign our online petition by visiting the MALC website and checking out the Local Partnerships section.

Who to Contact

Contact the chairs of the Joint Finance Committee, who vote on the Stewardship Fund:

Senator Russ Decker

P.O. Box 7882

Madison, WI 53707

Sen.decker@legis.wisconsin.gov

Representative Kitty Rhoades

P.O. Box 8953

Madison, WI 53708-8953

Rep.rhoades@legis.wisconsin.gov

Contact our Governor:

Governor Jim Doyle

P.O. Box 7863

Madison, WI 53707-7882

608-266-1212



A large oak stretches out towards the sun—Kristen Wilhelm



Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy
9724 W. Forest Home Ave.
Hales Corners, WI 53130-1618

Check us on the web!

www.mkeconservancy.org

MALC's Mission Statement

To preserve and protect land and water resources with significant conservation or open space value, for the benefit of the public and the wildlife that depend upon them, in order to maintain quality of life, biological diversity, and natural scenic beauty for future generations.

Current & Upcoming Events

- MALC Board meeting: The 10th of every month @ 6:30pm. Location: Stahl Conrad Homestead (MALC Office) unless otherwise noted (will be posted on MALC website if there are changes)
- MALC/Friends of St Francis Green Space/Friends of Seminary Woods meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month @ 7pm. Location: St. Francis Public Library
- MALC Open House/Friends of Franklin Park meeting: Late March, 2008 (more details forthcoming—check the MALC website for information)
- Spring Hikes through Seminary Woods, Fitzsimmons Woods, Franklin Savanna, and Carity Prairie: To Be Announced

