

**Mississippi Valley  
CONSERVANCY**

A photograph of three children playing in a field of tall, dry grass. On the left, a boy in an orange hoodie and grey pants is smiling and holding a girl. The girl, in the center, has her arms around the boy's shoulders and is wearing a dark blue patterned shirt and dark pants. On the right, a girl with blonde hair and pink glasses is wearing a pink jacket and dark pants, looking down at the grass. The background shows a clear blue sky with scattered white clouds and some distant trees.

# A Place for Everyone

*2021 Annual Report*

*We don't inherit the earth from  
our ancestors; we borrow it from  
our children.*

*~Unknown*

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FRONT COVER PHOTO:  
Stepping out at the Holland Sand Prairie

# Thank you for protecting this place

**A**s the sun rises each morning, I think of you. Are you safe? Are you healthy? Do you have nourishing food to eat? Do you have a place in nature to find calmness and serenity to soothe your soul?

**A message from  
Carol Abrahamzon,  
Executive Director**

It's times like this when I want to know that everyone, from every walk of life, has a special place to call home – a place to experience the joys of nature and the beauty that surrounds us.

When people have meaningful experiences outdoors, their quality of life, health, and social well-being improve. In turn, our communities become stronger and more sustainable. We all benefit when everyone has the opportunity to connect with nature.

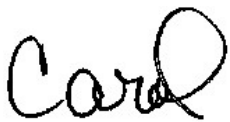
You are central to our ability to enhance the public nature preserves we own, to make sure they feel welcoming and safe for all. It's because of you, and so many others, that we are working to increase the pace of land conservation – including conserving and restoring those places for wildlife, for clean water, for climate resilience . . . and for opportunities to be outside and stay healthy.

We know we have to do more. We want everyone to have a place where they can explore and find peace in the flute-like song of the wood thrush at sunrise or the trill of the tree frog in the early evening. A place that soothes the mind with the quiet whoosh of the wind in the tree-tops or the swish of the breeze through the prairie grasses. A place to use outside voices to advocate for more natural spaces for wildlife, for our children, for everyone.

In this new year, join me with renewed hope and inspiration to share the gifts of nature, farms, and wide-open spaces. Let's make sure that every community has outdoor places to cherish and everyone has opportunities to learn about and feel comfortable in the special public places you've saved.

Together we can do much more to save farmlands, forests, wetlands, prairies, and streams. And, as the sun sets, we'll know that together we made the Driftless Area a better place for all.

Together in conservation,



Carol Abrahamzon



# Expansion of nature preserve protects unique geology and rare habitats

By Abbie Church

In the Mississippi River bluffslands of western Grant County resides a unique geology with sinkholes, talus slopes, caverns, and springs all interacting to replicate the conditions present here during the last ice age. Within cold-air slopes, also known as algific talus slopes, underground air movement keeps the land cool on even the hottest days, supporting rare plants and animals today that would have been found here 10,000 years ago. With your support, we recently protected another 40 acres of this rare habitat.

We started piecing together land in the area in 2007. We first acquired 28 acres of land called Devil's Backbone State Natural Area. In 2010, another 98 acres of adjacent land was added, providing the first protected algific talus slope in the state of Wisconsin.

But we knew the property was incomplete. We had an area of functioning algific talus slope, complete with the federally threatened northern monkshood, state threatened cherrystone drop snail, and other rare species. But what we were missing was the air intake supporting the entire system – typically a sinkhole or series of sinkholes.

Left unprotected, the source of the airflow can become blocked and the entire habitat can quickly be destroyed.

We were constantly concerned about the property, knowing that a poorly planned logging road or illegal dumping on a property miles away had the potential to completely destroy the habitat we'd worked so hard to protect. This new acquisition also supports the Conservancy's recently published

climate action plan, due to its exceptional biodiversity.

In 2020, we received a call from Jim and Milli Lindell. Milli, together with her brother Doug, owned 40 acres of land adjacent to that already owned by the Conservancy and were exploring options for it. The land had been in their family since their grandparents purchased it to expand their farm in 1943. Conservancy staff spent a day exploring the site, finding springs, butternut trees, monkshood, talus slopes, and then, finally, algific talus slopes and significant sinkholes.

"This is a memory-filled area for our family in many different ways. Having our family land now be part of the Conservancy will allow us to visit and share its story with present and future generations," said Milli.

*Protecting  
and expanding  
this nature  
preserve is  
a benefit to  
the local  
community.*

## *A unique landscape. An ecology that serves all.*

Expansion of the Devil's Backbone nature preserve means more protection of ancient plant and wildlife species that make it rich in biodiversity and essential in a time of climate change.



In addition to protecting the rare habitat, the Conservancy's ownership and management of the Devil's Backbone nature preserve benefits the local community, providing opportunities for hiking, hunting, fishing, and other nature-based outdoor recreation. Funding for the new acquisition came from Wisconsin's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, the Paul E. Stry Foundation, and donations from Conservancy members and supporters.

The federally threatened northern monkshood (*left*).

## MORE LANDS PROTECTED

60  
a c r e s

John and Rita Hoffmann have lived on their farm in the Kickapoo River Valley for more than twenty years. They've dedicated those years to stewardship of the woodlands, prairies, and a cold water creek that runs through the property. The Hoffmanns see their conservation easement as a tool that furthers their goal to protect what is there for future generations.



55  
a c r e s

Will and Peggy Agger have hunted, hiked, launched their canoes, and skied on their property along the Black River. It includes sandstone cliffs, forested seeps, moist cliffs, springs, a creek and associated emergent wetland and floodplain forest. They have managed their property through the state's Managed Forest Law program. Over the years they have observed golden-winged warblers, northern goshawks, and prothonotary warblers – all species of special concern.

114  
a c r e s

Dave and Betty Van Dyke moved to Wisconsin's Driftless Area more than 40 years ago. Having grown up on a farm, Dave knew that improving the health of the soils would be mandatory to any successful agricultural operation. He amended the soil with lime, he planted trees to help prevent erosion in land that he enrolled in the Conservation Reserve program, and he has planted prairie strips within crop fields to deliver soil, water, and nutrient benefits while increasing wildlife and pollinator habitat.



# 40 acres

Joan and Kurt Peterson enjoy caring for the diverse habitats and wildlife on their Vernon County property near the Kickapoo River.

Many birds enjoy their land, which has four oak species mixed with hickory on its steep hillsides. Down below, a creek runs through a sedge meadow. The Petersons are active birders and citizen scientists who report their sightings to programs that track and record bird populations. They share their love of the land with their daughter and grandchild.



# 22 acres

Pete and Ginny Quirin added 22 acres to land already protected by a conservation easement with the

Conservancy. A year earlier, their acquisition of 88 conserved acres from Diane and Charles Canniff took place. The Canniffs involved the Quirins in crafting the easement on that land, as they knew Pete and Ginny planned to buy it from them. Said Pete, "I hope I can start something in this neighborhood. I hope I can get a couple of my neighbors to do the same thing. I want to use my example to spread the word."

# 108 acres

The Limery Road property is a new acquisition of one of the last remaining undeveloped Mississippi River blufflands adjacent to the Limery Ridge Savanna State Natural Area in Crawford County. It was slated to be auctioned off when Craig Thompson of the Wisconsin DNR informed us about the opportunity. Thanks to an anonymous donor, your Conservancy was able to offer the winning bid for this bluffland that slows water run-off and offers critical habitat for migrating songbirds.



# 180

acres

Susan and David Weigandt have protected their Richland County farm with a conservation

easement that protects the many years of work they've put into restoring wildlife habitats, planting trees, managing woodlands, protecting the creek, and hosting a grazing operation that functions in harmony with nature. The water that runs off their land is cold and clear, thanks to the perennial cover they've maintained and the care they've given to creating cattle ramps, chutes, and pastures for rotational grazing.



# 44

acres

Bob and Frances Kaplan raised their daughters and enjoyed life on their bluffland property for

40 years. Bob loved the land and all the wildlife there. Before his passing in 2014, he told Fran was that if she ever decided to sell it, to "call the Conservancy first." Which was exactly what she did. Located within the Town of Medary, the land acquisition boasts significant prairie habitat and adds to a protected corridor of over 1,200 acres in the La Crosse Blufflands.

# 50

acres

Elmwood Partners' donation of an additional 50.2 acres more than doubled the size

of the French Valley Preserve, on the northern outskirts of the City of Onalaska. The land is mostly forested but also includes a small prairie. The wooded bluffs host an established oak woodland including white, bur, black, and red oaks. This site falls within priority areas of the Conservancy, the City of Onalaska Greenway, the Blufflands Coalition Plan, and the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan.





# Restoring a bluff for climate resilience

By Levi Plath

Sugar Creek Bluff State Natural Area is one of the Conservancy's most ecologically important and diverse properties.

This past year, Conservancy staff, along with help from more than 80 volunteers, completed projects throughout the year to restore natural communities, maintain trails, increase climate resilience, and control invasive species at the preserve. Their accomplishments from the year include

- 2 acres of cedar clearing to restore native prairie habitat
- 3 acres of timber stand improvement to promote native oak regeneration
- 77 acres of prescribed burning to maintain native prairie and oak forest
- 1,000 lbs. of invasive garlic mustard removal
- 5 acres of tree planting maintenance
- 6 acres of invasive wild parsnip removal
- 5 acres of native seed collection to expand our native prairie remnants

As a result of these projects, we're seeing a resurgence of native plant species flourishing and doing what they do best: supporting diverse wildlife species, preventing soil erosion, and protecting water quality for everyone. During this time of climate change, nothing could be more valuable in building the resilience of Wisconsin's Driftless Area.

These land management and restoration accomplishments were made possible by funding from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Wild Turkey Stamp grant, donations from the Conservancy's generous members, and, of course, help from the more than eighty volunteers who helped with the hands-on restoration and maintenance efforts. Volunteers for these projects included members of the general public, students from De Soto Middle and High School, and students from UWL's Environmental Studies Program.

We have a long list of additional restoration projects upcoming in 2022 at Sugar Creek Bluff, and we're always looking for volunteer help and contributions to help sustain our work. If you're interested in participating in the ongoing land restoration projects at this nature preserve, please visit the Conservancy's website and tell us a bit about yourself:

[www.mississippivalleyconservancy.org/get-involved](http://www.mississippivalleyconservancy.org/get-involved)

Butterfly milkweed at Sugar Creek Bluff State Natural Area – a 440-acre nature preserve owned and managed by Mississippi Valley Conservancy, near Ferryville, Wisconsin. Photo by Siena Muehlfeld

# Thanks to the mighty volunteers!

From the beginning, volunteers have played an essential role in building the resilience of the wild lands you've protected. This year was no exception.

The total value of the time donated by land restoration volunteers in 2021 was more than \$30,000. We thank you one and all!

Anyone can help protect land, water and climate by volunteering in our "For the Wild" and "Naturehood Connections" programs. When signing up to volunteer, we invite you to tell us about yourself so we can reach out to you when we have opportunities that match your interests.

## 2021 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Every protected property requires an investment of scientific, legal, and administrative resources to assess, document, and monitor the health of the land. Fundraising and education efforts require time and resources to create awareness among landowners and engage communities with our mission.

Your support makes it all possible.

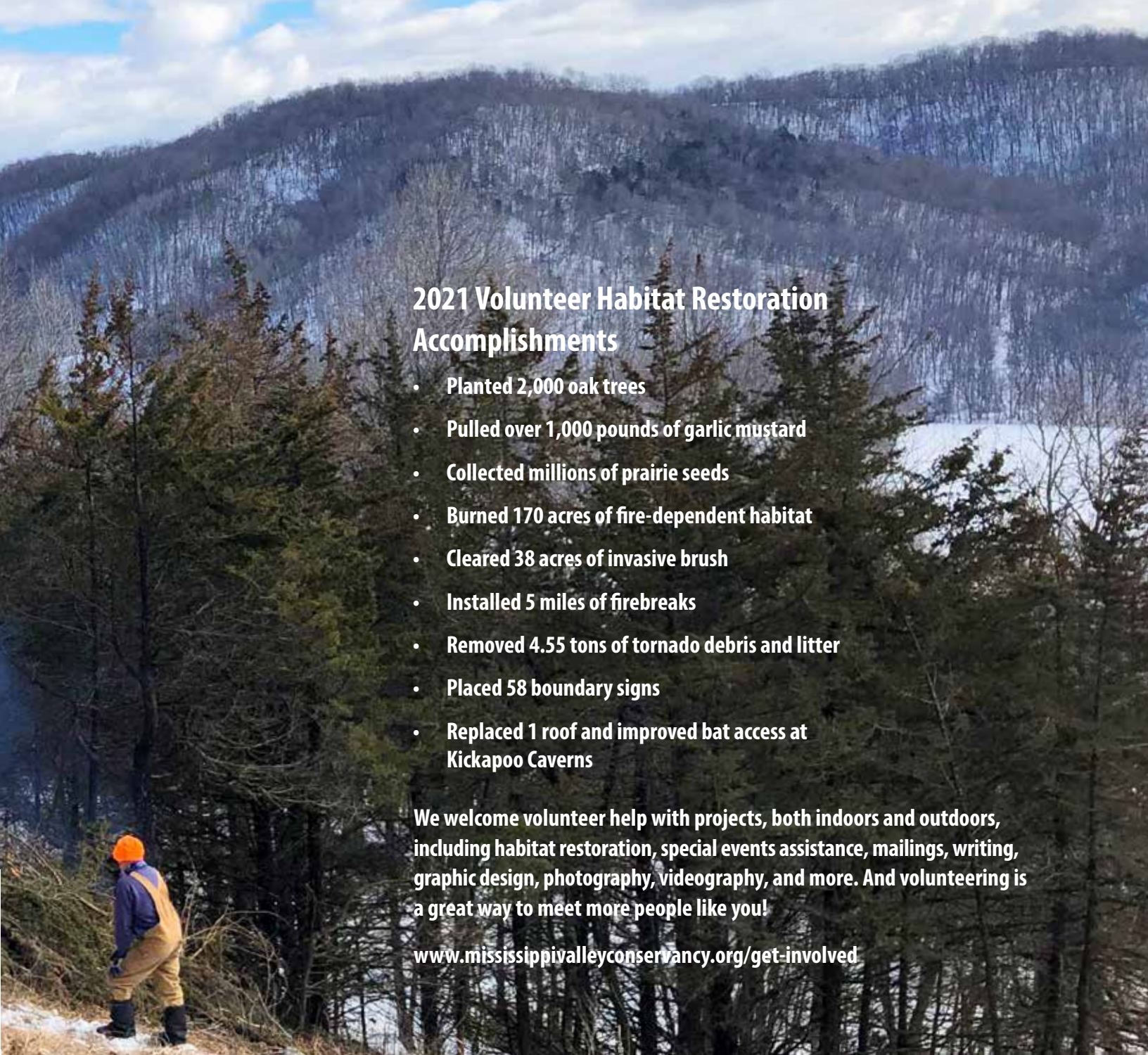
Mississippi Valley Conservancy is committed to strong fiscal health. The financial summary at right is based on the complete financial audit that was conducted by Wegner CPAs. Their full report is available on our website or by contacting us at 608-784-3606 ext.1.

### Expense Allocation

*88% Programs*



*12%  
Core  
Mission  
Support*



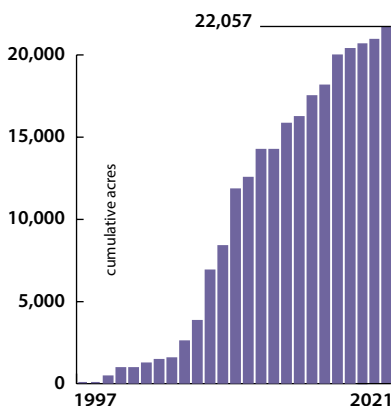
## 2021 Volunteer Habitat Restoration Accomplishments

- Planted 2,000 oak trees
- Pulled over 1,000 pounds of garlic mustard
- Collected millions of prairie seeds
- Burned 170 acres of fire-dependent habitat
- Cleared 38 acres of invasive brush
- Installed 5 miles of firebreaks
- Removed 4.55 tons of tornado debris and litter
- Placed 58 boundary signs
- Replaced 1 roof and improved bat access at Kickapoo Caverns

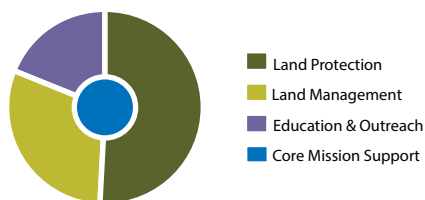
We welcome volunteer help with projects, both indoors and outdoors, including habitat restoration, special events assistance, mailings, writing, graphic design, photography, videography, and more. And volunteering is a great way to meet more people like you!

[www.mississippivalleyconservancy.org/get-involved](http://www.mississippivalleyconservancy.org/get-involved)

**Land protected since 1997**  
22,057 acres and growing!

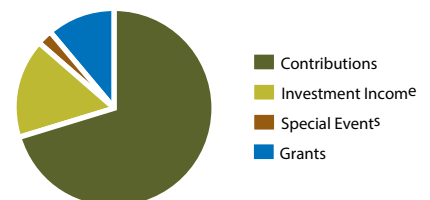


**FY 2020–21 Expense Allocation**  
Total Expenses \$766,620



Land Protection	\$ 342,449
Land Management	204,581
Outreach & Education	125,703
Core Mission Support	93,887
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 766,620</b>

**FY 2020–21 Fundraising Revenue**  
Total Revenue \$1,665,804



Contributions	\$ 1,171,994
Investment Income	271,050
Special Events	41,165
Grants	181,595
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,665,804</b>



## Fostering a land ethic with UWL's Environmental Studies program

*Written by Sarah Bratnaber*

*UWL's Environmental Studies Program uses field trips – such as this one at the La Crosse River Marsh – to highlight the fundamental connections between humans and nature. The program has seen an increase of nearly 40% in enrollment over the past ten years.*

When three faculty members from different departments proposed an interdisciplinary program in environmental studies at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse back in the late 1990s, they had to pitch the idea to a number of college deans on campus to find a “home” for it. The three of them, Steve Simpson (Recreation Management), Ken Maly (Philosophy), and Virgil Holder (Geography), were delighted when the idea for the program was embraced by the College of Liberal Studies, now known as the College of Liberal Arts, where it was soon offered as an academic minor.

They also liked that the program was offered as a minor, as it is today, thereby assuring its autonomy from any single college or department. Classes were taught by faculty from a variety of departments across campus – teaching about the environment from philosophical, economic, and scientific perspectives. In this way, the program has succeeded for over 20 years in giving a broad sense of environmental responsibility to students from many disciplines.

From day one, a requirement of the Environmental Studies minor has been completion of a service-learning project, and Mississippi Valley Conservancy was on the list of recommended organizations in which students could get this “field experience.” In recent years, students from UWL’s environmental studies program have contributed to the Conservancy’s land protection mission through internships and service-learning projects in land management, nonprofit development, and community engagement.

“We have a mutually beneficial relationship with the Conservancy,” said Alysa Remsburg, one of the program’s professors. “Students gain a strong sense of place as they discover the diverse natural habitats at the nature preserves. Through their service-learning projects they get to see local conservation work in action, they receive mentorship from Conservancy staff, they learn about how nonprofit organizations work, and the students in the field with Levi even get to meet landowners and learn about the importance of those relationships.”

“Nurturing a land ethic has always been one of our primary objectives,” said Carol Abrahamzon, executive director at the Conservancy, “and working with college students from different study areas is a wonderful opportunity for us to do that. At the same time, our nonprofit organization learns a great deal from the students regarding how we can further engage their generation in caring for the land. We are grateful for the UWL Environmental Studies Program for the connection it provides us to students of diverse backgrounds.”



*“Environmental Studies students have worked with the Conservancy to sponsor climate reading discussion groups, nature writing workshops, Aldo Leopold events, and literary reviews for the Conservancy’s “Wild Reads” web page. Although students design and lead events for the Conservancy, they inevitably remark on the reciprocity of their learning experience,” said Kelly Sultzbach (above), director of the Environmental Studies Program.*



Daniel Weber graduated from UWL in December of 2021 with a major in Biology and a minor in Environmental Studies. He says the main “draw” to the program is that “it teaches you ways to be environmentally responsible and why changes are needed.”

After his Environmental Studies capstone project with the Conservancy, Daniel reported being excited to share newly discovered nature preserves with friends. Here, Daniel and a friend proudly display their haul of garlic mustard from an afternoon of volunteering on their own in the woods at Sugar Creek Bluff.

Photo courtesy of Daniel Weber

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

# More fish in the creek



*John Lyons was born in New York City and grew up in the country near Poughkeepsie, NY, where he fished local streams and ponds and became fascinated with the natural world. John graduated with a BS in Biology from Union College in Schenectady, NY. He came to Madison for graduate school in 1979 where he received his MS and PhD in Zoology from UW–Madison.*

John Lyons bushwhacked his way into the Devil’s Backbone nature preserve in Grant County for the first time in 2020. He wasn’t a member of the Conservancy at the time. He was curious because he knew the DNR fisheries expert who had reintroduced brook trout into Chase Creek in the early 2000s. As an avid angler and retired fisheries specialist and supervisor for the Wisconsin DNR, John knew what he was looking for, and he was happy with what he saw – a landscape that was healing and a brook trout population that was growing. Soon afterward, we received a donation from John.

When we called to thank him for his new sustaining membership, we were delighted to learn that his gift was inspired by his discovery and his special concern for one of the most unusual nature preserves you’ve helped us protect. John said he was pleased with the Conservancy’s efforts to conserve the Chase Creek watershed because “keeping the valley in healthy forests is essential to allow precipitation to soak into the soil and feed the many springs that keep Chase Creek cold, a critical step to help offset the threat of a warming climate.”

Lyons was hired as a fisheries research scientist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to work with resource managers to conserve and improve fish populations and their habitats. He eventually became a research supervisor, a position he held for more than 32 years until his retirement in 2017. When Lyons began with the DNR, he was also appointed as adjunct curator of fishes at the University of Wisconsin Zoological Museum, a position he presently holds and where he continues to study Wisconsin and Upper Midwest fishes.

## MORE WAYS TO PROTECT LAND

### Gifts of Stock

Gifts of appreciated stock can save you taxes in two ways. They can help avoid paying capital gains tax on the increase in value of your stock, and you can receive a tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stock on the date of the gift.

### Planned Giving

The Conservancy can be remembered in wills or living trusts through cash or property bequests. This is one of the simplest ways to make a future gift.

### Tax-free Distributions from your IRA

If you are 70½ or older, you can make a tax-free distribution from your traditional or Roth IRA to Mississippi Valley Conservancy. You can donate up to \$100,000 each year without incurring income tax on your withdrawal.

*For more information, contact Carol Abrahamzon today at 608-784-3606 x4.*

# Thanks to *YOU*, amazing things are happening.

## MEMBERS OF 2021

### \$10,000 & Above

Anonymous  
John C. Bock Foundation  
Pat Caffrey and Peg Zappen  
Emily Campbell Bequest  
Jim Fowler  
Barbara and Donald Frank  
Franciscan Sisters of  
Perpetual Adoration  
The PMG Foundation, Inc.  
c/o Trust Point  
Sue Anne Gelatt Foundation  
c/o Trust Point  
George and Sharon Kerckhove  
La Crosse Community Foundation  
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La Crosse Community Foundation  
Robert Ross  
Rob and Kathie Tyser  
David and Betty Van Dyke  
David and Susan Weigandt  
Nick and Yonok Zeller

### \$5,000 - \$9,999

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Foundation, Inc.  
David Bange  
Michael and Barbara Baroni  
Tony and Teresa Brenengen  
Roy Campbell and Ellen Ullsvik  
John and Rita Hoffmann  
Todd and Lin Huffman  
John and Sangeetha Kelly  
Ron and Jane Rada  
Jon and Ann Rigden  
Roz Schnick Consulting, LLC  
Jim and Jo Ann Wickizer  
Pat and Bobbie Wilson

### \$1,000 - \$4,999

3 Amigos Property Management  
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American Transmission Company  
Associated Bank N.A.  
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Gretchen Benjamin and Joe Pfeiffer  
Brian and Barb Benson  
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Jim\* and Jan Brady  
Don and Cheryl Brenengen  
Jennifer and Mark Brumm  
Philip Burgess  
Elizabeth Campbell  
Cece Caron and Thomas Erb  
Steve and Susan Carpenter  
John and Sandra Castek  
Ursula Cejpek  
Roland Cline and Mary Papenfuss  
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Cornell University  
Jim\* and Joyce Czajkowski

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Haack-Deetz  
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EarthShare  
Eric and Kay Edquist  
Tim and Linda Eisele  
Jen and Andrew Erickson  
Jay and Diane Fernholz  
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Fowler & Hammer, Inc.  
Annette Friedewald  
Gelatt-Gephart Foundation, Inc.  
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Gundersen Health System  
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Mark Heberlein and  
Kathleen Fitzgerald  
Mary Helgren and Richard Radek  
Edwin and Nancy Hill  
Timothy and Bridget Hill  
Drake Hokanson and Carol Kratz  
Joe and Deb Hooyman  
Kirk Jacobson and Donna Pittman  
J.F. Brennan  
Tim and Regina Johnson  
George and Carleen Johnston  
Kenneth and Deneen Kickbusch  
Gear and Linda Kimmel  
Maureen Kinney  
Sue Knopf  
Ralph Knudson and  
Nancy Heerens-Knudson  
Fred and Lou Anne Koerschner  
Nancy Kroner  
Barbara and Joseph Kruse  
John and Louise Leary  
Jean and Mark Ledman  
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Eric and Vicki Wheeler  
Marc and Janet Williams  
Wisconsin Land Fund  
Mary Veldey  
Steve Ventura and Margaret Krome  
Viroqua Area Foundation  
Robert and Lori Wallock  
Edward and Roberta Walsh  
Pat and Bobbie Wilson  
Xcel Energy

### \$500 - \$999

Philip and Kathy Aaker  
Brian and Joyce Abernathy  
Dennis and Leslie Adams  
Altra Federal Credit Union  
Anonymous  
Randall Bekkers and Laurie Harmon  
Sara Bentley  
Dianna Brown  
Abbie Church  
Cleary-Kumm Foundation  
Jason Cleveland  
Crawford County Community Fund  
Davy Engineering Co.  
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Jan Dressel  
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The Elliott Family Fund of the  
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Jim and Jan Gallagher  
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Dianne Greenley  
Wendelin A. Guentner  
Sigurd and Jean Ann Gundersen III  
Glenn Hagar  
Sandra Heggeness  
Dr. Mark and Anne-Marie Hein  
Jay Heldt and Karen Kouba  
Clare Henneman  
High Point Retreats  
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Mike and Linda Jawson  
JayKay Foundation Fund of  
Greather Milwaukee Foundation  
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Catherine Kolkmeier  
Forrest and Sue Ann Krause  
Mike and Becky Kreiling  
George and Elizabeth Kruck  
Patricia Kulig  
David and Karen Lange  
Larry Lebiecki and Anita Evans  
Richard and Dorothy Lenard

Randy and Rita Magno  
Andrew and Melonie Matchett  
Milo and Beverly Mayer Mach Family  
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Foundation  
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Mike Mulroy  
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Loran Nordgren  
Allan and Katie Ohm  
Harry and Sylvia Peterson  
Allan Pischke  
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Pete and Barb Putnam  
Raptor Research Center  
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Tom and Cindy Rhorer  
Barbara Rice  
Shelley Roberts and Dewey Moore  
Darcy Rood  
James and Kathryn Rozovics  
Gerard Rugowski and Jayne Stokke  
Jack and Judy Rusch  
Dennis and Sharon Ryan  
Robert and Carol Schmid  
Paul and Joan Schoenfeld  
Jeri Sebo  
Jessica Selby  
Dr. Charles and Judy Shepard  
shopdriftless.com  
Michael Sigman and Kelly Krieg-Sigman  
The Sinsinawa Dominicans  
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Viroqua Area Foundation  
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The Waterfall Family Foundation  
Russ Wedeking  
Leslie Wegener  
Topf Wells and Sally Probasco  
Douglas Wilson  
Jane Wolff  
Janet Wollam and Dana Fisher  
Richard W. Yerkes

### \$250 - \$499

217 on Main Air BnB  
John and Maureen Adams  
Greg and Molly Aleckson  
Anonymous  
Steve Axon  
Robert W. Baird & Co.  
Dr. Vance Baker  
Bill and Marsha Bateman  
Dr. James and Peggy Baumgaertner  
Beverly Bodine  
Ann Brice and Bill Haviland  
Michael Brown  
Bonnie Buchman  
Martin and Kathleen Buehler  
Jac and Susan Bulk  
Loren and Margaret Cade  
Kristi and Frank Cadwell  
Caitrine Callison  
Charles and Diane Canniff  
Castle La Crosse  
Rebecca Christoffel and Andrew Williams  
Tom Cläflin  
Tom and Mary Jo Clark  
Kevin Corrado

Lloyd and Mary Croatt  
 Thomas and Kimberley Culp  
 Curtis and Kristine Cvikota  
 David and Julie DeHart  
 Doris Doherty  
 Juliet Eyers  
 Ruth Frise  
 Andrea and Mark Fritts  
 Funk Family Fund of the La Crosse  
 Community Foundation  
 Ted Glasbrenner and Jenifer Strand  
 Robert and Becky Glesne  
 Ben Golden  
 Leonard and Helaine Greene  
 Amy Groskopf and Kent Turner  
 Sandy and Kurt Grunwald  
 Charles and Cheryl Hanson  
 Rick Hanson  
 Patricia Heizler and Aaron Berg  
 Gracie and Jeff Hohman  
 Mary and Robert Hubbard  
 Adam Huntington  
 Steven Isaac and Judy Olds  
 Dan and Joanne Jackson  
 Niels and Beth Jensen  
 Mill Creek Land & Cattle  
 Company, LLC  
 Chris and Jane Kerbaugh  
 Larry and Susan Kirch  
 Khris and Liz Kleba  
 Melinda Knutson and Dave Ford  
 Ann and Carl Korschgen  
 Al Kube  
 Jeffrey Kunzelman  
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## In memory of an advocate for health and conservation

### *Barb Hammes 1950-2021*

Barb Hammes was a trailblazer in her career and in her community. Her life was dedicated to advocating for women's health worldwide and for the environment. She sought to leave a better world for her grandchildren and future generations. After becoming a Conservancy member more than 20 years ago, she was among those who attended to the development of our young regional land conservation organization. She served two terms on the Board of Directors and as chair of the Board Governance Committee.

With deep gratitude, we thank Bud Hammes for founding the *Barb Hammes Stewardship Fund for Driftless Area Lands* in memory of Barb.



*"The only power our thoughts have is the power we give them." - Joseph Goldstein*



# In memory of a conservationist who showed the way with his own land

*James Francis "Jim" Brady 1943-2021*

We are deeply saddened by the loss of our friend Jim Brady. Jim served as chair of our Land Protection & Management Committee for several years, where he typically showed up with home-baked treats from his wife, Jan.

He walked the talk by putting a conservation easement on his 400-acre farm and implementing numerous erosion control features to protect soil and water. Jim and Jan were famous for turning Jim's annual easement monitoring assignments into picnic outings. He regularly accompanied Jan to assist with volunteer projects in the Conservancy office, too.

We continue to be inspired by Jim's conservation leadership.



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Mississippi Valley Conservancy is a regional, nonprofit land trust based in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The Conservancy has permanently conserved 22,057 acres of blufflands, prairies, wetlands, streams, and farmlands in and around the Mississippi, Kickapoo, and Wisconsin Rivers since its founding in 1997. Over 5,000 acres are open to the public for hiking, bird watching, hunting, fishing, photography, and snowshoeing.

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- John Kelly
- Maureen Kinney
- Dave Lange
- Dorothy Lenard
- Beth Piggush
- Freddy Ragan
- Mike Ripp
- Dave Skoloda
- Pam Thiel
- Craig Thompson (*Emeritus*)
- Steve Ventura
- Tim Wucherer

**Staff**

- Carol Abrahamson, *Executive Director*
- Abbie Church, *Conservation Director*
- Chris Kirkpatrick, *Conservation Specialist*
- Krysten Zummo, *Conservation Associate*
- Zac Millbrand, *Stewardship Coordinator*
- Levi Plath, *Land Manager*
- Siena Muehlfeld, *Restoration Coordinator*
- Nancy Larson, *Finance & Operations Mgr*
- Leanne Kruse, *Development Coordinator*
- Sarah Bratnaber, *Communications Director*

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# We have exciting news to share!

Join us for our 25th annual member meeting to find out what's in store for our anniversary year.\*

(HINT: our most impactful project ever)

Everyone is welcome to this online event on Saturday, March 26th! *\*Watch for details coming soon.*



## Mark your calendar for outdoor fun in 2022!

You're invited to all these family-friendly walks, hikes, outdoor and online activities. Get to know the land you've helped to protect.

February 12	Valentine's Snowshoe Hike	La Crosse River Conservancy, Onalaska
April 24	Trail Trek Challenge 2022 Kick-off	Earth Fair – Myrick Park, La Crosse
May 7	International Migratory Bird Walk	Sugar Creek Bluff, Crawford County
June 4	Wildflower Identification Walk	Boscobel Bluffs, Grant County
July 10	Driftless Geology Walk	La Crosse Blufflands, La Crosse County
September 10	Mushroom Foray	Romance Woods, Vernon County
October 10	Stargazing Hike	Tunnelville Cliffs, Vernon County

Event dates and locations are subject to changes. To receive updates and reminders, sign up for our e-newsletter at the bottom of our website at [www.mississippivalleyconservancy.org](http://www.mississippivalleyconservancy.org). "Like" us on Facebook for more updates.