



To protect and restore field, forest and natural habitat along the lower St. Croix River

Board of Trustees

Dick Burrows
President

Deb Murphy
Vice President

Kevin Rogers
Treasurer

Jenni Webster
Secretary

David Aichinger

Alex Bouthilet

Patrick Collins

Barb Delenaey

Kim Gearin

Dan Guenthner

Terry Ingram

Jeff Mallak

Adam Spiegel



Oak Leaves

Standing Cedars Community Land Conservancy—December 2020

Times Like These...

by Pat Collins, Trustee

"I found things in the woods that I didn't know I was looking for.... and now I will never be the same."

- Jennifer Pharr Davis

I used to enjoy watching the news, but it is hard to watch these days. The negativity and stress we absorb through our screens from elections, riots and Covid19 is just overwhelming at times. People often wonder how we will ever get away from this mess and get back to normal, you know.... like the good old days? I don't have a magical answer to that, but I know that when I am stressed, I put down the remote, close the laptop and get outside. When I am immersed in Nature, absorbing some "vitamin N", I realize how incredibly lucky we are to live here, as we have so many beautiful places to escape to.

I walk at Standing Cedars a lot. Sometimes it is more of an amble and some-



times a rigorous hike, at least for this old guy. There are always so many things to see, hear and smell in this incredible parcel of land. Covid-19 and social distancing magnify the wisdom in those who had the foresight to preserve so much land in the beautiful St. Croix River Valley, even if many couldn't see the value at the time. Walter Mondale, Gaylord Nelson and so many other giants were prescient enough to preserve this land for all of us to use. Standing Cedars, three state parks and national park land are all in our backyards and for that I am so grateful.

Covid19 continues to disrupt our lives, our routines, our work and our thoughts. Out of all of this pain and bad news, we look for order in a chaotic world. And where can we find that or-

Continued on next page

Continued from Page One

der and those ancient rhythms and routines that soothe our souls and ease our minds? If the number of cars I see in parking lots is an indication, then I believe that people are returning to nature and finding solace in watching the seasons come and go, as they always have. As I have driven by Standing Cedars properties in the last nine months, I have seen more vehicles parked in the Englewood, Tewksbury and Buffalo Skull parking lots than I have ever seen before. People are immersing themselves in nature to try to make sense of their lives, get some exercise to soothe the mind and get away from the siren call of the refrigerator. The migratory bugle of the sandhill cranes and swans makes us pause and calms us, giving us peace and a chance to get away from the ever present screens that bestow on us more bad news than we can bear.

Covid19 will run its course and perhaps another pandemic will return in the cyclic pattern of a hundred years, but I won't be there to endure that one. And when the people of 2120 look back at our pandemic, they will most likely look to nature and the simple pleasures of a nice hike in a beautiful, wild and scenic place to help them cope too. They may wonder who



the people were who fought to preserve these lands and I know they will be thankful for their wisdom as I am. The 25th anniversary of the founding of Standing Cedars was October 13th and I am so thankful for those people who were wise enough to see the value of preserving the beauty of nature for everyday and especially for times like these.

President's Message

by Dick Burrows

With over 1500 acres of land on five properties, Standing Cedars has many natural resources - from the large burr and white oaks, to the prairie violet, the smallest of wildflowers. Including all the wildlife, the pollinators and other insects and over 100 species of birds, Standing Cedars has a wealth of resources.

One of my favorite resources, and one that sometimes gets overlooked are the people involved with Standing Cedars. From the original framers that thought 26 years ago that maybe this



chunk of ground should be kept together and not be chopped up, to the many people that just discovered Standing Cedars during this time of the Coronavirus, I have never met nicer people than I have though Standing Cedars. I've gotten to know doctors, biologists, botanists, lawyers and about a hundred volunteers, and I was introduced to Vice President Walter Mondale - not too bad for a retired Maytag repairman.

My term as President is up in January, however I'm excited that Deb Murphy is in-line to take over. She will be the first woman President of Standing Cedars.

Thanks to everyone in the Standing Cedars community.

First Day Hike

Celebrate the new year by snowshoeing through beautiful, protected habitat. Join the St. Croix River Association and Standing Cedars for a New Year's Day hike at the Tewksbury property. Pre-registration is required. The hike will be capped at 25 participants. For details and to register, please visit: <https://www.stcroixriverassociation.org/learn-explore/scra-outside/>



XC Ski Trail Groomer

This year we purchased a xc ski trail groomer, and will set a track on some trails at the main Engelwood parking lot as conditions allow. NOAA has forecasted a La Nina winter, which could mean a snowy winter for Wisconsin – let's hope so!



Happy 25th Birthday Standing Cedars

Standing Cedars was incorporated on May 16, 1994, with the intent to create a land trust to buy the Engelwood property, which was for sale. The purchase of Engelwood closed on October 13, 1995. There are many people to thank for all of their hard work in creating the Standing Cedars organization, and raising the money to purchase Engelwood. Money to purchase Engelwood came from the Wisconsin Stewardship Program and from many individuals. Thank you to everyone who has supported Standing Cedars over the last 25 years.

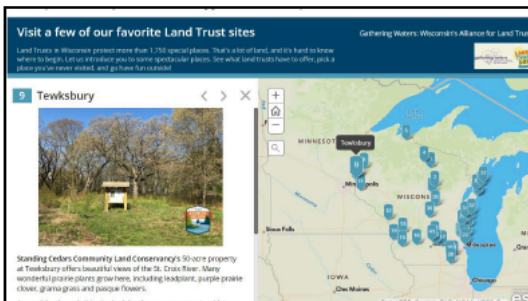
Snow Plow Blade

To make plowing the parking lots easier, we purchased a snow plow blade for the gator utv. Thanks to our volunteers who plow the lots, we appreciate it.



Standing Cedars Featured on Gathering Waters Website

This year Standing Cedars was featured on Gathering Waters website in "Visit a few of our favorite Land Trust sites". Gathering Waters is a statewide organization that helps land trusts, landowners, and communities protect the places that make Wisconsin special. Go to gatheringwaters.org to see the story.



Give Big Day Update

A big thank you to all who donated to Standing Cedars during this year's St. Croix Valley Give Big Day in April. We raised \$1630 in donations, and we won two \$100 Golden Ticket door prizes!

Welcome New Board Members

This year David Aichinger, Kim Gearin, Terry Ingram & Kevin Rogers joined the board.

David Aichinger is a multi-disciplinary artist who works with wood, stone, and snow. The scope of his work includes public art, art education and private commissions. His favorite works involve environmental activism and education.

Kim Gearin has lived in rural Star Prairie for more than 20 years. She works in Public Health and relishes the mental, social and spiritual health benefits of Standing Cedars and other natural places. She enjoys quilting, yoga and landscaping with native plants.

Osceola native **Terry Ingram** is retired and got to know the Standing Cedars property from his grandpa, who took him deer hunting on the Harris Doll property back in 1975. Terry enjoys volunteer high school baseball coaching, along with helping at Ruby's Pantry food distribution. Terry is an avid hunter, and loves the beauty of the river hills on the property. Terry and his son Tyler are the caretakers of the bluebird houses on Standing Cedars property.

Kevin Rogers, another lifelong Osceola resident, works in IT. He is an avid athlete, and enjoys running, biking, xc skiing, hiking and kayaking. Kevin became interested in Standing Cedars because he "puts a high value on conserving our natural resources".

Leaving the board this year were Nancy Beck, Nathan Dahlberg, John Schletty. Thank you, Nancy, Nathan & John for your dedication and for all of the work you did on behalf of Standing Cedars.



Bluebird Survey

by Terry & Tyler Ingram

We started closing houses on March 10th, to get them ready for the arrival of the Bluebirds. There was need for a few repairs and rebuilding of a couple of houses, from raccoon to bear damage. This year we located a few houses I didn't know we had. On May 12th, I started seeing activity in the fields and around the houses. This year we did get out to clean houses after the first batch of young were big enough to fly on their own. We were able to get some activity on a second batch of new families. 2020 1st Nesting: 66 houses, 22 bluebirds, 58 eggs, 24 swallows, 1 wren, & 1 nuthatch. 2020 2nd Nesting: 22 houses cleaned, 10 bluebirds & 17 eggs. 2019 Nesting: 42 houses, 14 bluebird, 48 eggs & 21 swallows.



Thank You, Donors

*Please mail in your
2020 contribution today.*

Donors of Cash, Grants and Gifts In Kind for 2019:

\$1,000 and up

Gail Hanson
Lisa Schlingerman &
Craig Christensen
Charles & Cynthia Wilcox

\$500-\$999

Richard & Deborah Burrows
Dan Guenther &
Margaret Pennings
Timothy Laux
Ryan Rodgers

\$250-\$499

Eliot Berkley
Christina Burkhouse
Paul Burkhouse
Raymond & Diane Burris
Stephen Clemens
Nancy Hardenbergh
Ron Johnson
Steven Ressler & Deb Ryun
Terry Saario
Steve & Donna Schletty
Joseph Vanboxel
Gerald Viebrock

\$100-\$249

Robert Cyril Altman
Emily Berkley
David & Patricia Borchert
David Crawford
Randy & Kathy Ferrin
Joyce Hinz
Sherwood Johnston
Kelvin Kobernick
Duane & Debby Lee
Ryan Lee & Megan Simmons
Sally Leider
Amy Middleton &
Therese Durkin



Diane Moser
Thomas & Kathryn Paskvan
David & Lisa Peters
Wesley Slaymaker
Neil & Beth Soltis
Stonehouse Pictures
Thrivent Funds

Up to \$99

Amazon Smile
Angela Anderson
Richard & Sharon Bachman
Robert Bullard
Joan Carlson
Thomas & Angeline Conley
Mary Cotch
Ronald & Deena Dague
Kathryn Distel
Kimberly Donaldson
Carl & Annalise Dyrbe
Nancy Frank
Kim & John Gearin
Terry Guanella
Thomas Hecht
Cheryl Hustad
Louis Kirkbride
Neil & Deborah Krueger
Deb & Dan Murphy
Amber Poppovich
Susan Shelton
Barb Wetzel
Cole Zrostlik
Your Cause, Anderson Corp.

In Memory of Dawn Bilek
Laurence Bilek

In Memory of Robert Bowen
Robert Bowen Family

**In Memory of Bill Clapp,
founding SC board member**
David & Amy Anderson
Eliot Berkley
Richard & Deborah Burrows
Dan Guenther
Margaret Pennings
Nancy Hardenbergh
John & Diane Herman
Dorothy Jeffries
Ron Johnson
Mairs and Powers, Inc.
Chris & Mary Paul
Michael Prichard
James & Marlene Stronge
U.S. District Court

**In Memory of James Johnson,
former SC board member**
James Johnson Estate

**In Memory of Tom &
Ginny McClanahan**
Catherine Nelson

Standing Cedars COMMUNITY LAND CONSERVANCY

P.O. Box 249
Osceola, WI 54020

Standingcedarsclc
@gmail.com

www.standingcedars.org



standingcedarsconservancy

Land Management Recap

At Standing Cedars our land management goals continue to be based upon fostering the diversity of all native species. Our protected lands are a wonderful home for so many wonderful plants and animals and we aim to improve and expand their potential and actual habitat. The main way in which we attempt to accomplish this is through vegetation management such as clearing invasive species, doing prescribed fires, and collecting and sowing native seeds. This year our volunteers helped to clear invasive brush from Buffalo Skull and Engelwood to improve the Bur Oak savan-



nas. We also harvested an estimated fifty pounds of seeds from over thirty species of native grasses and flowers that will be planted in areas where disturbances such as fire or brushing occur. The Conservation Corps have burned over 100 acres at Standing Cedars over the previous four years and we are plan-

ning to continue this relationship in the future. **We will continue our workday schedule of every third Saturday from 9:00-noon for 2021.** Volunteering with us is a great way to get outside and learn about these special ecosystems that

we have the privilege of protecting and restoring. In all, there were 690 volunteer hours. Thanks to everyone who supports our work!