

# THE CHEROKEE MARSH NEWS

## Madison Common Council Approves Funding to Add 23 Acres to Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park

Anita Weier

The Friends of Cherokee Marsh are more than pleased with the city of Madison's intended purchase of 23 more acres of land from Dennis Tiziani – a purchase that will protect the marsh from development.

Besides the benefit of expanding the preserved park land, restoring this upland parcel will help improve the health of the adjacent marsh and the water quality in the Yahara River and the lakes downstream. Wildlife will find a larger and more diverse landscape for nesting and feeding.

The Friends have long supported preserving this land, which is known as the Fifth Addition because it would have been the fifth development of homes in the Cherokee Park neighborhood.

The purchase agreement was announced in January by Mayor Dave Cieslewicz, Alder Michael Schumacher, Parks Superintendent Kevin Briski and Tiziani.

"This purchase furthers our conservation efforts at Cherokee and protects critical wetlands in the marsh," Cieslewicz said. "I'm excited to move forward on this conservation purchase, and I want to thank Dennis Tiziani, the property owner, for continuing to work closely with us in these conservation efforts."

The agreement, which was approved by the Common Council on Jan. 19, authorizes the land purchase for \$1.7 million dollars and amends the city's 2010 Capital Budget accordingly. City officials will work with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Heritage Land Trust to try to obtain a state Stewardship Fund grant for up to half of the purchase.

The remaining half would come from the Citywide Parkland Acquisition Fund, which is funded by developer impact fees, not taxpayer funds.

"I want to thank Mayor Dave, Dennis Tiziani and everyone who has worked together to come to an agreement for this important purchase," Schumacher said. "This conservation purchase will continue our efforts to protect our precious marsh and preserve it for years to come."

The purchase would build upon a \$3.1 million joint purchase of 259 acres near the city's Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park from Tiziani in 2007. The 23-acre parcel is adjacent to the marsh and is the last piece to fully insulate and protect it.

"I am proud that we can help permanently conserve this land at Cherokee Marsh. Providing opportunities for hiking, cross-country skiing, bird-watching, as well as protecting critical wetlands that can prevent flooding in the city, is one of the best investments we can

*(Continued on page 2)*

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# Common Council Approves Funds (continued from page 1)

make in our community," said Jim Welsh, executive director for the Natural Heritage Land Trust.

Because of the way state grant rules work, the Land Trust has to buy the property, but would then immediately transfer it to the city, Welsh told the Northside News. "In essence, we are providing money to the city to buy it," he explained.

The Madison-based Land Trust protects natural areas, wildlife habitat, working farms, healthy lakes and streams, and recreational land to provide a high quality of life in the Dane County region.

Cieslewicz said he had been worried about Tiziani's previous intention to develop land next to the conservation park.

"I was concerned about it because our park is an important part of a much larger wetlands complex protected by the city,

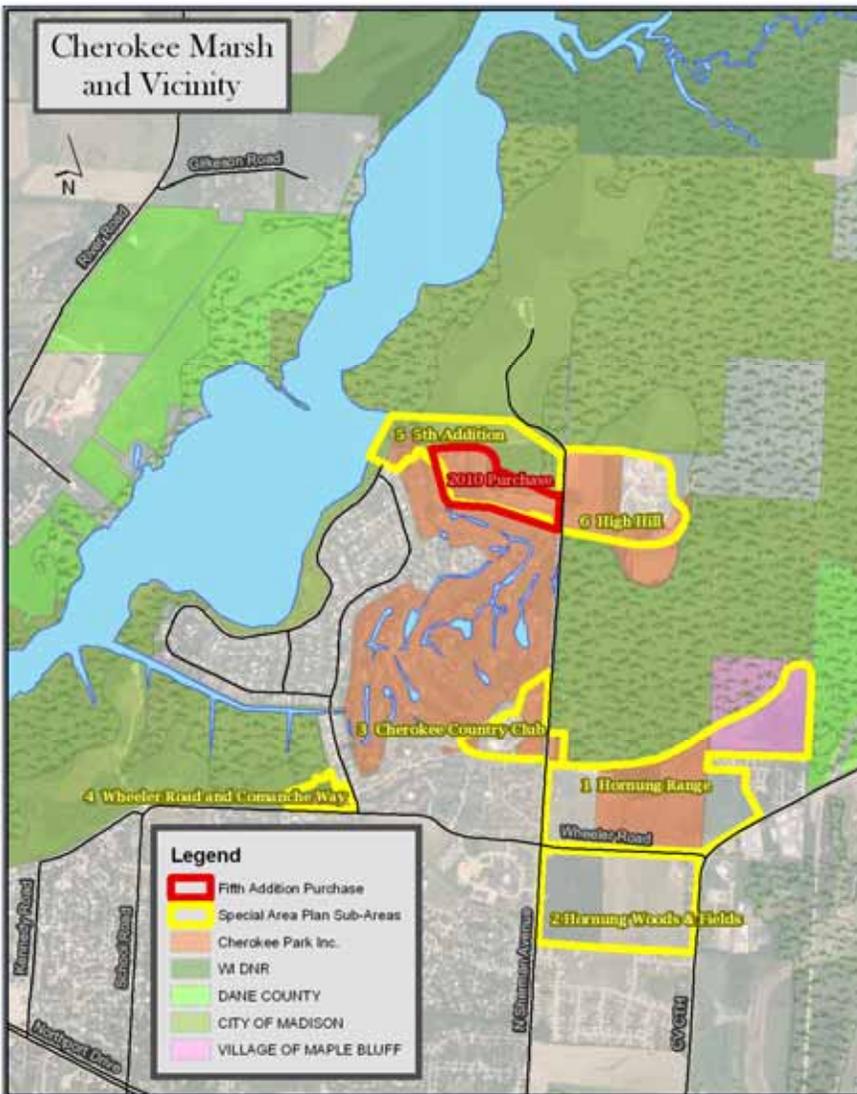
county and state," the mayor said in a blog. "Development too close to it could pose threats to water quality and other natural values."

He added that protecting the wetlands would help prevent flooding in the surrounding area.

The final deal is still subject to an appraisal by the state, which should be done by spring, according to the mayor.

"But if all goes as expected, we'll add an important piece to our Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park," Cieslewicz said, "and the land will be preserved forever."

*(A version of this article appears in the Feb/Mar 2010 Northside News.)*



The red outline shows the area of the approved purchase. Map by Aaron Stephenson.

# 2009 Annual Report

January 30, 2009

Friends,

Our most exciting news of 2009 was announced on January 5, 2010. After long negotiations, the City of Madison and developer Dennis Tiziani of Cherokee Park, Inc. reached an agreement to buy 23 acres to add to Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park. Beginning in 2006, Friends representatives met multiple times with the developer and City staff and elected officials to advocate for preserving this land. On January 19, the Common Council approved funding the purchase. State Stewardship funds will pay about half of the \$1.7 million cost.

This upland parcel, formerly slated for development, is west of N. Sherman Ave. and adjoins the Conservation Park's south boundary. Restoring this land will help improve the health of the marsh and the water quality in the Yahara River and downstream lakes. Wildlife will find a larger and more diverse landscape for nesting and feeding. And we'll all have more to enjoy in our Conservation Park.

In other highlights from the past year, the Friends:

- Helped the Wisconsin Wetlands Association promote the Wetland Gems program with a public event in Cherokee Marsh, declared one of 100 wetland gems in the state.
- Worked with the Northside Artists Group to put on an Art of Marsh show for display at the Lakeview branch library, the State Capitol, and the UW Arboretum's visitor center.
- Brought the "Surly Surveyor" historical re-enactor to our 2009 annual meeting and local schools and sponsored a display of snakes and other critters at Cherokee Marsh Day at the Northside Farmers Market.
- Co-sponsored and helped promote seven volunteer days, including winter work on the ice to improve wetland habitat, removing invasive plants in spring, and seed collecting in fall.
- Co-sponsored and helped promote a dozen walks and paddles in the marsh and surrounding lands.

- Obtained status as a Federal tax-exempt charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

A big thanks to our members and other supporters and partners for helping make 2009 a fruitful year. Remember that the Friends is your group. If you have ideas or suggestions for the coming year or would like to volunteer with a project, let us know at [info@CherokeeMarsh.org](mailto:info@CherokeeMarsh.org) or (608) 467-5207.

Jan Axelson  
President



## 2009 Financial Statement

1 JAN thru 31 DEC 2009 Actual	
<b>INCOME</b>	
General Fund	\$ 2,994.19
Contributions	1,320.00
Interest	2.47
Member Dues	1,115.00
Grant A	0.00
Fundraiser	460.00
Other Income	25.00
Reimbursements	200.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 6,116.66</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
General	\$ 240.60
Insurance	353.00
Equipment	33.72
Printing	788.68
Reimbursements	
Rental	68.00
Assn./Prof. Memberships	110.00
Fundraising	
Outings	98.77
Special Projects	3,075.00
Stamps	214.20
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 4,981.97</b>
<b>ACCOUNT BALANCES</b>	
Checking	\$ 1,134.69

# 2010 Annual Meeting

It was standing-room only at our January 30 annual member meeting with special guest Lisa Hartman and her captive turkey vulture, "Uncle Butzie."

A big thanks to **Pierce's Northside Market** for tasty refreshments.

For generous donations of door prizes, thanks to:

- Benvenuto's Italian Grill**
- Culvers Restaurant**
- Don Hammes**
- Jim's Meat Market**
- Jungs Garden Center**
- M&I Bank**
- Massage East**
- Pizza Hut**



*Uncle Butzie is the third turkey vulture Lisa Hartman has cared for.*



*After the presentation, everyone got a chance to visit with Uncle Butzie up close. (Left to right: Lisa Hartman with Della, Timothy, Dorothy, and Beth Baker.)*

*Photos by Justin Sargent*



*We learned that Uncle Butzie is twelve years old and has made many public appearances.*

# Environmental News Briefs

## Plant Dane! Program Makes Native Plants Available at Greatly Reduced Prices

Everyone seems to be putting in rain gardens these days. And now, the Plant Dane! Cost-Share Program provides native plants to fill those rain gardens for less than half of retail prices.

Rain gardens are an attractive way to reduce lawn maintenance time and costs, beautify your yard and help your lakes, rivers and streams all at the same time. Go to <http://www.myfairlakes.com> for an online application. A free rain garden workshop will be offered on March 6 to participants. Orders may be placed through May 15th, 2010. Plants will be delivered on June 26th.

Now in its 6th year, the Plant Dane! cost-share program provides homeowners, schools and nonprofit organizations with native plants, seeds and information to establish rain gardens and restore prairies through a gift from the Graham-Martin Foundation. The Plant Dane! Program has provided tens of thousands of plants, resulting in hundreds of acres being planted with native species throughout Dane County. Plan your rain garden today!

## Exploring the Challenges of the Yahara Lakes

Each semester, the Nelson Institute Community Environmental Forum focuses on a particular issue and explores many of its facets. This spring, the Forum topic is **Exploring the Challenges of the Yahara Lakes**.

February 16 - Agricultural Sustainability in the Yahara Watershed

February 23 - Yahara CLEAN: Partnering to Improve Water Quality in the Yahara Lakes

March 9 - Public Health Issues in the Yahara Lakes

March 23 - Controlling and Preventing Invasive Species in the Yahara Lakes

April 6 - Water Levels in the Upper Yahara Lakes: Surface and Groundwater Influences

All forums are at:

1106 Mechanical Engineering Building, 1513 University Avenue

5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Free parking in Lot 17 -- ramp access via Engineering Drive, enter from Randall Ave.

<http://nelson.wisc.edu/community/programs/community-environmental-forums/overview.html>

### Attention Procrastinators

Have you renewed your membership? If not, please take a minute to fill out and mail the form on the last page of this newsletter, or download a form from

<http://www.CherokeeMarsh.org>.

Your membership helps support our activities, but just as important, your membership demonstrates that preserving, protecting, restoring, and educating about Cherokee Marsh has wide support in the community.

# Christmas Bird Count Finds a Bald Eagle and Much More

Jan Axelson

On the cold morning of December 19, I joined three others on a mission to count every bird we could find in Cherokee Marsh and surrounding neighborhoods from sunrise to sunset. Paul Noeldner, Trish O'Kane, Mike Rewey, and I were part of Madison Audubon's 50th annual Christmas bird count, where on a single day near Christmas, teams of observers count birds in an assigned area.

By mid-December, many birds have left our area for warmer climates, but a surprising number tolerate the cold and find enough food to survive and even thrive here in winter. Our area included Warner Park, Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park North and South Units, and Lakeview Hill County Park. Mike has been doing the Christmas count on the North Side for about twenty years. This was my first time helping out.

Our tally for the day was 27 species and 655 individual birds. Most abundant were mallards, followed by Canada geese. We saw three kinds of woodpeckers, a red-tailed

hawk, cardinals, blue jays, gulls, a black duck, doves, creepers, nuthatches, sparrows, finches, juncos, waxwings, starlings, and a turkey.

A highlight was watching a bald eagle scatter a flock of ducks in a patch of open water on the mostly frozen Yahara River at Cherokee Marsh. Our final bird of the day was a belted kingfisher, which announced itself with a rattling call as it flew under the HWY 113 bridge at sunset.

Madison Audubon's count is part of a larger effort by birders throughout the Americas. The data collected helps identify species and habitats that need protection. A summary of the full count will appear in Madison Audubon's newsletter at [MadisonAudubon.org](http://MadisonAudubon.org).

(A version of this article appears in the Feb/Mar Northside News.)

## Events Calendar

### BOOK READING

***NATURE'S SECOND CHANCE : RESTORING THE ECOLOGY OF STONE PRAIRIE FARM***

BY STEVE APFELBAUM

Wednesday, February 3, 6:30 pm

Blackhawk Middle School, 1402 Wyoming Way, Auditorium (room 110)

Steve Apfelbaum has conducted ecological research, designed award-winning projects, and directed his creative scientific expertise to over 1,500 projects throughout North America and beyond, including Lakeview Hill County Park. Steve's goal is to inspire others to restore parts of their own patches of land interconnecting a renewed ecosystem.

Sponsored by the Friends of Lakeview Hill County Park and Blackhawk PTO. Refreshments and child care provided.

### SAVE THE DATES

More details to come about these events sponsored by Madison Audubon and the Friends of Cherokee Marsh.

**April 23** (Friday), Evening at Cherokee Marsh

**June 19** (Saturday), Butterflies of Cherokee Marsh with the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association

**August 15** (Sunday), Canoe Cherokee Marsh Ecological Restoration

Friends of Cherokee Marsh, Inc.

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Madison WI 53704

608-467-5207

[info@CherokeeMarsh.org](mailto:info@CherokeeMarsh.org)

[www.CherokeeMarsh.org](http://www.CherokeeMarsh.org)

*To protect, preserve, and restore the beauty, value, and health of the Cherokee Marsh and upper Yahara River watershed.*

#### Directors

Jan Axelson (President)

Justin Sargent (Vice President)

Dana Erlandsen (Treasurer)

Steve Ackerman

W. David Clutter

Muriel Simms

Dick Walker

#### Advisors (non-voting)

Don Hammes

Dorothy Wheeler (Secretary)

Read past and current newsletters online at

<http://www.CherokeeMarsh.org>

Join the Friends or renew your membership!

Your contribution of time, talent, or funds will help preserve and restore the crucial wetland ecosystem of Cherokee Marsh. The Friends sponsor and promote activities and events such as:

- Planting native species, collecting seeds, and controlling invasive species.
- Wetland educational events and opportunities.
- Paddle outings, hikes, and cultural events.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Osprey \$100           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25     | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandhill Crane \$250   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mallard \$50    | <input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron \$500 |

Additional donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Memberships are per calendar year.  
Memberships paid after June 30 are valid through the current and following year.

In addition to my contribution, I'm interested in helping with

- Field work    Publicity    Tours    Education    Board/Committee work    Newsletter

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Family member(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Include your email address to receive our newsletter. We won't sell or distribute your email address.

Don't publicize my financial support.

Please mail this form and payment to:

Friends of Cherokee Marsh  
PO Box 3390  
Madison WI 53704

Thank you for joining us in our effort to protect this valuable resource!  
The Friends of Cherokee Marsh, Inc. is a tax-exempt charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.