



Spring 2019

Scenic Views

A newsletter from the Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy

For the Love of the Land

Sidney Woods Project Success

Our Mission

To preserve and protect valuable land and water resources for the benefit of the public, as well as for the wildlife dependent on these resources, in order to maintain quality of life, biological diversity, and natural scenic beauty for future generations.

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In January we completed our invasive brush removal grant at Sidney Woods by reducing buckthorn cover to much less than the 10% cover goal of the SEWISC grant. Hard work by our Native Niche crew (pictured) and follow-up monitoring by our partner, Milwaukee County Parks, showed that the initial sweep by Native Niche had almost eliminated buckthorn from the entire 3.76 acre woodland. MALC is asking Native Niche for further help in a follow-up control this autumn.

Buckthorn control is very important in isolated small natural areas that can quickly be overcome by invasive species. Sidney Woods harbors over 110 native plants and has a Floristic Quality Site Index of 51, putting it in the top 1% of remaining natural habitats in Milwaukee County. It is one of only 25 woodlands with American Beech left in the County.

The project also benefits the Digger Crayfish and Prairie Crayfish, important Sidney Woods niche species whose burrows provide over-wintering homes

for woodland amphibians.

One of the looming challenges with Sidney is planning for canopy replacement of the wetland's ash trees, which are infected with borer beetles. Part of this grant included planting of 10 young swamp white oak, the nearest long-lived, wet tolerant native tree which provides adequate light for the native understory. Another 100 bare-root trees will be planted April 10 by MALC, using trees donated by the Living Lands & Waters' Million Trees Project via the Argosy Foundation. Volunteers are welcomed for this planting; please contact us at (414) 377-3851 or email at mkeconservancy@gmail.com

We thank our grant partners including Dr. Jill Hapner at the Southeast Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium (SEWISC), the US Forest Service, Gary Casper of Great Lakes Ecological Services, Brian Russart and the natural areas staff of Milwaukee County Parks and neighborhood stewards John and Martha Lunz.

Dear MALC Supporters,

After serving for one year as a member of the MALC board, I stepped into the role of president. Having six board members with a wealth of natural science and landscaping expertise plus one member versed in finance, the board welcomes my legal expertise in the president's position.

MALC's land restoration and enhancement work has been a great success once again, as described in Perry's article. Looking forward to the coming year, a driving theme will be to grow our community of active participants in the activities and projects of the conservancy. We are inviting old friends and new to join us in maintaining and expanding our land stewardship projects, strengthening our organization, and building up our community outreach and education.

We are once again offering a hiking tour of the Carity Prairie preserve with our knowledgeable board member guides on May 18. Check out the announcement in this newsletter. We'd like to see you there. We also anticipate volunteer recruitment for removal of invasive species at one or more properties this year. Would you like to work in the dirt with us or explore other opportunities at MALC? Please

email us at mkeconservancy@gmail.com or call (414) 377-3851. Please indicate your area of interest:

- Working on the land
- Standards and Practices
- Fund raising
- Community outreach / social media
- Strategic planning

Finally, be sure to check out Paul's article on Climate Resiliency. Most people are unaware of the essential role that natural landscapes play in absorbing greenhouse gases and slowing climate change. We recognize this crucial role as stewards of the land. At the same time, we must be thoughtful and innovative in addressing the impacts that a changing climate is already having on habitat and biodiversity.

With warmest regards,

Linda Frank
MALC President



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Paul Ryan: Climate Resiliency

Expressed as a capacity to adapt to or recover from a disturbance, resiliency to changes in climate can be observed and affected in numerous ways. In native plant communities, we see a shift in species composition and location as a natural response to a complex variety of changes. Increases in CO2 levels can have direct, but variable, effects on plant growth and development. Increased nitrogen from car exhaust and power plants can alter available soil nutrients, affecting plant distribution and community composition.

As land managers, what can we do?

Habitat fragmentation disrupts the potential

for plants and animals to move and adapt. Protection of wildlife corridors and preservation of critical habitat linkages can help maintain this capacity. Human land-use and increased disturbance can create opportunities for the introduction of invasive plants that can occupy habitats and out-compete native plants. Invasive species management is an important way we can enhance climate resiliency.

More broadly, what can we all do?

To begin, do not underestimate the impact of your personal decisions. Your conscious choices can combine with others' to substantially minimize detrimental effects.

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MALC Thanks Our Supporters and Contributors

Amazon Smile
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Paula Zamiatowski
Perry Rossa
Prairie Grass Preserve Homeowners Assoc.

Paul Ryan
Robert Wilson
Richard Krueger
John Sanborn
Kristin Schultheis
Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium

Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy 2018 Consolidated Financial Report

Assets

MALC's balance sheet remains strong as we continue to hold significant funds in both our long term and short-term reserves, as well as cash on hand to support land management activities now and in the future. With over \$1.1 Million dollars in land under management MALC continues to be a major land conservation organization in southeastern Wisconsin.

Income

The land conservancy's sustainable and balanced approach to income leverages donations and annual assessments by actively seeking matching grant funds from State, local and foundations to support our conservation efforts on our lands. We appreciate the generous support of our donors and neighboring homeowners in

conservation subdivisions adjacent to our conservation lands. Additionally, MALC supplements donations and grant in-kind requirements with volunteer labor by MALC staff and conservation workers.

Expenses

Due to MALC's prudent cash reserves, the land conservancy was able to absorb a one-time property tax payment of \$7000 associated with a land acquisition in 2017. In 2018, we continued the long-term restoration work at the Carity Prairie with funds provided through a mitigation fund. As we are on a cash basis for accounting, payment for this work will appear in the 2019 financials when the final payment is made. Additionally, invasive species removal work continued at Sidney and Fitzsimons Woods in 2018 with grant funding and mitigation dollars and volunteer labor.

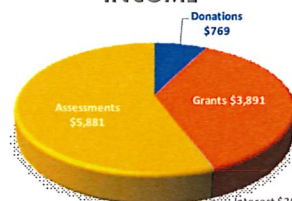
EXPENSES



MALC ASSETS



INCOME



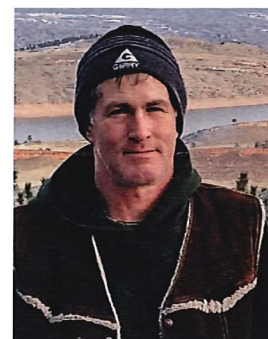
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Share rides and make fewer trips in the car; use energy wisely at home; eat meat-free meals and buy organic and locally-sourced produce – these all reduce your climate impact. Consume less, waste less. . . and, whenever possible, share, re-use, re-purpose and recycle. These are all good places to start. Your choices matter. Vote.

In the end, a healthy planet and stable climate

aren't political issues, they are quality of life. Talk with your friends and family. Encourage them to do whatever they can. Most of all, do whatever you can – because it matters.

PAUL RYAN is former land manager at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center and The Koenen Land Preserve. His background is in botany, ecology, and geography. His principal enterprise is providing sustainable solutions through specialized contracting and consulting services as proprietor of Northern Lights Natural Landscaping.



YES! I would like to help the Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy preserve and restore beautiful places for the public's enjoyment. Enclosed is my tax deductible gift.

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Mail this form with your check to: For additional information:

Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy
P.O. Box 320304
Franklin, Wisconsin 53132

email: MALC@mkeconservancy.org
www.mkeconservancy.org
Phone: 414-377-3851

MALC accepts donations online. See the donation page of our website at: mkeconservancy.org



Print your name as you would like it to appear in our newsletter acknowledging our supporters. If you choose to be listed as anonymous, place the letter "A" after your name.

Contributions will be applied to land acquisition, stewardship, and operating expenses to help carry out our mission. MALC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.



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53132-720031



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Carity Prairie Spring Tour

Join us on May 18 at 9:00 am for a walking tour of one of MALC's properties, The Carity Prairie in Franklin. The 23 acre prairie and savanna complex is one of the last known examples of virgin (unplowed) prairie in Milwaukee County and is home to many rare plant, animal, and reptile species as well as a stop for migratory birds this time of year.

Located adjacent to the Prairie Grass Preserve Subdivision in Franklin, the preserve was spared from development in 2004/5 by developer Bill Carity, who had the vision to create the first conservation subdivision in the area.

The Tour will be lead by Paul Ryan, MALC board member, former Land Manager at the Land Manager of the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center and the Koenen Land Preserve. Paul

is currently the owner of Northern Lights Natural Landscaping.

Paul was involved with the initial land management/restoration of the Carity prairie/savanna for many years. Prior to joining MALC as a board member he worked with MALC co-founder Richard Barloga delineating wetlands, collaborating on inventory work on the site. Paul's unique knowledge of Carity Prairie will be sure to make this tour interesting.

May 18th
9am to
11am

To participate, meet at the end of Prairie Grass Way off of St Martins Road (hwy 100) in Franklin at 8:45. The tour begins promptly at 9:00. If you plan to attend, please e-mail us at: mkeconservancy@gmail.com so we can estimate attendance prior to the event. Walk-ups are also welcome the day of the event.