

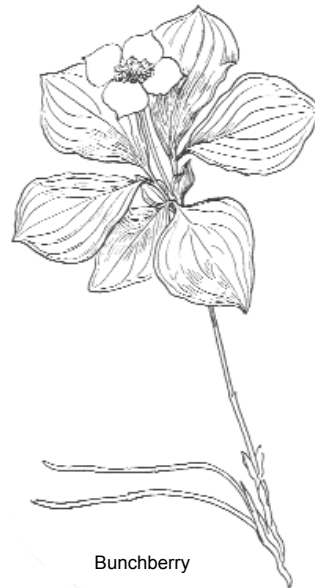
OFFER ACCEPTED TO PURCHASE A LARGE NATURAL AREA

When landowner Ruben Barsamian approached the Waukesha Land Conservancy to help him preserve his beautiful land in the Town of Ottawa, the board was ecstatic. Mr. Barsamian was offering to sell us 330 acres of land that is considered a Significant Natural Area by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. And when he said he would sell it to us for considerably less than its appraised value, we realized this MIGHT just be possible, if we could get the help of the Wisconsin DNR Stewardship Fund. Thus the offer we made is contingent upon receiving that funding, plus additional help from the Waukesha County Parkland Legacy Fund.

Located on the western edge of Waukesha County, the Barsamian property is home to some rare plant species, such as pink ladyslipper orchids and bunchberry and is the breeding habitat for uncommon birds including blue-winged warblers and alder flycatchers. Mr. Barsamian has been working to build this nature preserve for fifty years, planting thousands of trees to create woodland habitat for wildlife. Marlin Johnson, the Waukesha Land Conservancy's biologist, says that we will manage the part of the property that is rolling, old fields for field-nesting birds, such as meadowlarks and bobolinks, which have become rare due to loss of habitat.

The Barsamian Wildlife Sanctuary would be a magnificent addition for the Waukesha Land Conservancy. Keep your fingers crossed until we hear if our grant application for

Stewardship Funds is accepted. You will know when this happens, because you will hear the cheers from your board of directors and Mr. Barsamian all the way out at your house! Then you will be invited to celebrate a truly spectacular preservation effort.



Bunchberry



Above: Rep Michael Lehman (right) tours site with Marlin Johnson
Below: Rep Ann Nischke at Wilson Woodduck Sanctuary



MORE SUMMER INTERNS TO WORK THIS YEAR

The Waukesha Land Conservancy's summer intern program has been a great success, both for the Conservancy and for the college students who work for us. Their work has made such a positive difference in the management of our properties that the board has decided to hire four new, paid interns, plus one student who will work

as a full-time volunteer intern. This can be done at no greater cost to our organization, because we will be hiring students under the work/study programs offered by the colleges in the University of Wisconsin system.

Jason Dare and Chris Mann worked as our interns for the last two summers. Chris will continue to work for WLC, this summer acting as the director of our interns.

Jason Dare, who majors in Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, has a wonderful opportunity to work in North Dakota this summer. Before leaving, he wrote a letter to our board of directors about how important this job has been to him. We thought you might like to read it, as you also are responsible for giving Jason, and our new interns, this opportunity. We also take this opportunity to thank Prof. Marlin Johnson for the hours he donates to directing the management of our lands and leading our intern program.

Dear WLC board members,

I just wanted to say thanks for putting in the time to be a part of this organization. If it weren't for you, I would not have had the opportunity to be involved with such a positive and hardworking organization that is dedicated to the ideas that I hold dear. The last two years have been quite an experience. I will keep my thoughts brief, but I just wanted you to know that this job has changed and shaped my life. At the very least, I have an appreciation and understanding of my home, which, prior to this job, I didn't really have. This I believe is a very important thing for a young person to possess, and I treasure the job that has helped me to gain this.

I personally appreciate the work that you all put in to making the Waukesha Land Conservancy a functioning organization. I also want you to know that your work does not go unnoticed and that it is of enormous value. Keep up the good work and don't give in.

*Thanks so much,
Jason Dare*

Bluebirds and Tree Swallows Thrive at Anderson Nature Preserve

"The bluebird carries the sky on his back."

Henry David Thoreau



Dan Savin
Volunteer of the Year 2002

Our world became a little more colorful last summer with the addition of seventeen new fledgling bluebirds and 28 new tree swallows raised at Waukesha Land Conservancy's Anderson Nature Preserve in Big Bend. Local resident and Conservancy member, Dan Savin, is the man responsible for this success story. In the fall of 1999 Dan planted a dozen bluebird nest boxes mounted on posts in the grassy fields of the Anderson Preserve. The following spring he began making weekly visits to record the breeding success of birds using the boxes.

Last summer bluebirds laid 24 eggs in four nest boxes (one pair of birds nested twice during the season), 21 eggs hatched with 17 hatchlings surviving to the fledgling stage when they left the nests. (That means 71% of the eggs laid developed into fledglings.) Tree swallows were slightly more successful—37 eggs were laid in six boxes, 29 hatched and 28 reached fledglings stage (76% of the eggs produced fledglings). It's a tough world out there. Eggs fail to hatch for genetic reasons, insufficient incubation or are destroyed by house wrens, which are known to enter the nests of other birds and peck holes in eggs (its their way of reducing competition for food or nesting sites). The loss of young hatchlings may be due to weather conditions. The wet, cold spring of 2002 reduced the number of insects available to feed young and required parents to spend more time on the nest keeping hatchlings warm. Feral cats and other predators also may have taken a toll.

All of Dan's data are sent to the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (BRAW) and to the North American Bluebird Society. (The Anderson Preserve is registered as part of the Transcontinental Bluebird Trail.) Waukesha Land Conservancy's properties do indeed contribute to the biodiversity of the county and the whole nation!

Thanks Dan, for all the sweat you generated on those hot summer days and for all the mosquitoes, wasps and deer flies you braved along the bluebird trail. You have made a noble contribution to the Waukesha Land Conservancy and have enriched the lives of all of us who treasure nature in our own back yard.

Calendar of Hikes and Work Days

Spring 2003 Work Days and Tours:

April 26, 9 AM.

Pasqueflower Tour , followed by a volunteer work day (½ day) at Eagle Prairie. Come just for the tour, or bring your work gloves and help us manage this valuable prairie remnant. Meet in driveway of Eagle Centre House Bed and Breakfast on Hwy 67, just south of the Village of Eagle.

May 10, 1:00 PM.

Wildflower and migratory bird hike at Nelson's Woods. Meet on County Rd ZD (which is Main St in Dousman) south of Dousman. We will park along the bend in the road, right next to Nelson's Woods.

Questions? Contact Marlin Johnson at 262-965-2227.