

Land

Waukesha County Land Conservancy

Letter

Waukesha County Citizens Protecting Waukesha County's Remaining Natural Areas

Volume 15 No.2

Oct 2007

Country Gala 2007 is a Success



Country Gala Co-Chairpersons Ron Nash, Susan Marguet, Stan Marcus and Diana Marcus are introduced by board member Donna Meyer.

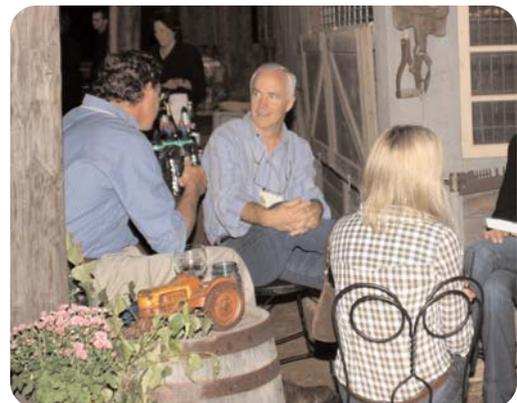
Artist Kate Tornehi in farm-friendly attire.



Country Gala host Tizza Meyer her daughter Melissa performed an original song about the state champion bur oak which grows on Stone Fences Farm.

Stone Fences Farm, the home of hosts Dr. Glenn and Tizza Meyer, provided the pastoral setting for the Waukesha County Land Conservancy's Country Gala 2007. Over 300 guests attended the event, which raised funds toward the preservation of the 390 acre Ottawa Wildlife Refuge. The party was sponsored by North Shore Bank, Siepmann Realty Corp. and Weiss Berzowski Brady LLP.

Mark McKoy visits with friends in the comfortable barn at Stone Fences.



BLACK-EYED SUSAN

(Rudbeckia hitra)

*"All in the dawn the fleet was moor'd,
the streamers waving in the wind,
When black-ey'd Susan came aboard.
"Oh! Where shall I, my true love find?
Tell me, ye jovial sailors, tell me true,
If my sweet William sails among the crew?"**

First stanza of "Sweet William's Farewell to Black-ey'd Susan" 1720 by John Gay, English poet and song writer.

Black-eyed Susan. What a strange name for a flower! Like so many of our common plant names, this one was probably named by an early English settler, in this case one who was familiar with the 1720 ballad quoted above. This is the first documented use of the phrase "black-ey,d Susan." A lovely flower named for a (presumably) lovely woman.

Blooming Black-eyed Susan is a sure sign of summer. From mid-June to September it beckons us to come and admire its beauty. It stands 1-3' high. The 2-7" lance-shaped leaves lack leaf stalks. The whole plant is covered with grey hairs which help retard evaporation.

The flowers are 2-3" across with 10-15 yellow "petals". These are not single petals but rather a group of fused petals arising from sterile ray flowers whose sole function is to advertise to passing bees, wasps and butterflies to pay a visit. No seeds are produced by these flowers. Once an insect is attracted to the flower, they are further drawn

to Susan's 'black eye' where there is a composite cone of many tiny chocolate-colored disk flowers laden with pollen and nectar. When pollinated, each of the disk flowers produces one seed. The whole 'eye' may contain a hundred seeds.

Range: The species is found from the Atlantic coast to Florida, west to British Columbia and Mexico. It is native to the West and Midwest but has spread east (presumably transported with clover seed and hay), where it is so well established that locals consider it a native wildflower. Thoreau mentions it in his Journals in 1854. It is the State Flower of Maryland.

There are two look-a-like species which may be confused with Black- eyed Susan: Sweet Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia subtomentosa*) and Brown-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia triloba*). Both have deeply three-lobed leaves which Black-eyed Susan lacks. Sweet Black-eyed Susan has 12-20 ray flowers and has downy hairs on the underside of the leaves. Brown-eyed Susan has shorter and fewer (6-12) ray flowers and with leaves often roughened beneath but scarcely downy. Brown-eyed Susan blooms later in the summer.

Black-eyed Susan flowers are particularly attractive to Great Spangled Fritillary, Red Admiral and Pearl Crescent butterflies. The larval caterpillar of Wavy-lined Emerald Moth feeds on the leaves.

(Continued on Page 5)

Black-eyed Susans bloom in Eagle Centre Prairie



Aspecial **THANK YOU** to the Country Gala 2007 Committee for their hard work and dedication to the mission of the Waukesha County Land Conservancy. These are the committee members:

Hostess: Tizza Meyer

Co-Chairpersons:

Susan Marguet
Diana Marcus

Committee:

Sandy Dionisopoulos
Susan Esslinger
Ellen Gennrich
Jan McKenna
Donna Meyer
Denise Oehmcke
Riene Wells
Cindy Ziegler-Fritz

Special thank you to Gee Esslinger for being the official photographer for the event and to Stan Markus, Jeff Leonard and John Parrott for providing the music.

*Please Consider a Membership With The
Waukesha County Land Conservancy*

Name: _____ \$35 Contributor

Address: _____ \$50 Sentinel

City: _____ St: _____ ZIP: _____ \$100 Guardian

E-Mail: _____ \$250 Steward

I am a member. I would like to give a gift membership to: _____ \$500 Conservator

I would like to make a gift in honor or in memory of: _____ \$1,000 Benefactor

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

Match this gift through my employer's Matching Gift

Payment by: Check Visa Master Card

Name on Card: _____

Card Number: _____ Exp Date: _____

Amount: _____ Signature: _____

Please make checks payable to WCLC (Waukesha County Land Conservancy.) WCLC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Your gift is tax-deductable. All donors, unless directed "anonymous" will be listed in our annual donor recognition report.

Workday Schedule for Fall & Winter 2007

Schedule of Fall Volunteer Work Days

Sunday, October 28: 1- 4 PM at the Nicolas Preserve in New Berlin.

Tour and workday. Come for the tour of this new preserve, even if you cannot stay to work. We will be cutting buckthorn after the tour. On the north side of Coffee Rd, ½ mile west of Calhoun Rd. Park in the drive at the entrance to the property, directly across from Woelfel Rd.

Sunday, November 4: 1 - 4 PM at Nelson's Woods south of Dousman.

Control buckthorn and honeysuckle.

Take Hy 67 south of Hwy 18 to Hwy Z (Ottawa Av.). Turn right on Z to the 1st stop sign. Turn left on Main St. Continue on Main St out of town, past where the road turns to the right. Where the road turns to the left, park along the road near this turn.

Saturday, November 17: Mukwonago River Wetland Mitigation Site

This 27-acre property is being given to WCLC by the Village of Mukwonago. We will be cutting brush along the edges of the wetland. Meet at the park-and-ride lot located at the intersection of Hwy 83 and Hwy 43 in Mukwonago.

Sunday, December 2: 9 AM – Noon at the Lakewood Preserve.

Cut and pile brush. Meet at the gas station at the intersection of LO and County Hwy E in the Town of Eagle.

Questions? Contact Marlin Johnson at 262-965-2227 or Jason Dare at jason_dare@hotmail.com

MEMBERS RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR EQUIPMENT

Thank you for equipment donations:

Nancy & Albert Pipke- two chain saws
John Mitchell - an all terrain vehicle
Nancy Gloe - a new trailer for the ATV
Storck's Tree Service - a Stihl chain saw
Betty Willert - a Yardman mower
Mary and Leuter Hiebl - a sickle mower

A Special Thanks to James Klauser

A special thank you to James Klauser for designating the Waukesha County Land Conservancy to receive his employer's charitable donation in honor of his retirement. As a result, WE Energies made a \$5,000 donation in Mr Klauser's name.

Wish List for Land Management

1. A mechanic:

Do you have some spare time to help us maintain our equipment? We are losing employee time while chain saws, the ATV, our truck or other equipment are waiting to be repaired. Please call Jason Dare at. (262) 391-0159 if you can help.

2. Storage Space:

We need storage space for equipment in the western part of our county. A garage with a light or electricity would be perfect. If there were water available, that would be super. Heat is not necessary.

3) Weekday Volunteers:

Volunteers available during the week for land management work, especially to help with controlled burns. Training provided.

4. A truck:

The truck we are using is on its last legs (or wheels, actually). We need a truck for our land manager to take equipment (sprayers, chainsaws) to job sites.

Black-eyed Susan (Cont)

Black-eyed Susan is found in sunny places like prairies, fields, road-sides and disturbed ground. It is often sold in prairie seed mixes. While it blooms profusely for two to five years (it is a biennial or short-lived perennial), it then almost disappears from the prairie as it succumbs to competition from long-lived perennial grasses and wildflowers. It needs some form of soil disturbance (such as ground squirrel borrows) to reseed every few years.

Gardeners love it, even in Europe. It is a sure thing to grow and makes long lasting bouquets. Black-eyed Susan is tolerant of drought and poor soil and is a magnet for butterflies. Furthermore, the plant is not eaten by deer or livestock. There are many horticultural varieties including Gloriosa Daisy, an annual hybrid. Other hybrids have flowers displaying various shades of orange, yellow, gold, tan, brown and dark red.

Honoring Gina Hinman: Dedicated Volunteer

It is time to sing the praises of an unsung hero. The Waukesha County Land Conservancy wants to recognize the years and years of volunteer work that have been performed by Gina Hinman. Gina prints and mails all of the membership renewal notices for the organization. She prints the letters for each family, prints the envelopes, stuffs them, attaches postage and mails them. And she does this every month!

When asked how many hours a month she volunteers for the Waukesha County Land Conservancy, Gina said, "It varies. By the time I go through and edit the titles and get the letters printed, some months it will take 5 or 6 hours, while other months, like December, it's 12 to 14 hours."

So think of Gina's volunteer work when you open your next renewal notice.

Gina and her husband, Phil, have lived in Brookfield since 1974. Phil is Vice President of Financial Analysis for Fiserv, Inc. Gina works in accounts receivable for Guetzke and Associates. Gina and Phil like living in Waukesha County, with the large yards and the trees. "Waukesha County is a good place to raise a family," Gina said. "I love the neighborhood parks. There's lots of inexpensive, fun things to do here."

A tea brewed from the roots was used by Native Americans to rid the intestine of parasitic worms and as a skin wash for sores and earaches. The plant contains antibodies, which may be used to treat staphylococcus infections.

Behind every plant and animal protected by the Waukesha County Land Conservancy is a story filled with biological knowledge, human history and art. Our properties are living museums filled with life's true treasures. Let us be sure we will always have a place for Black-eyed Susans.

*The ballad ends with kisses, hugs and a sigh as Susan leaves the ship and says 'adieu' to Sweet William who sails off for unknown destinations.

Article written by Marlin Johnson



Gina gets great satisfaction from the volunteer work she does for the Waukesha County Land Conservancy. "This is something I chose to do," she said. Gina was stricken with multiple sclerosis twenty-four years ago. "I like doing this. It's something I can do to help preserve the land," she said. "Brookfield has changed so much since we moved here. It was all open spaces and trees then. It has grown so much. Construction has gotten out of hand." Gina observed, "I love to sit and watch the birds. They need open space, or they won't be here."

Gina and Phil have a married daughter and son-in-law living in the area and a new baby granddaughter, Abigail. When asked about her hobbies, Gina said that she reads constantly. And she likes birdwatching. "And swearing at the rodents that are eating my bird food," she added. I think she means the squirrels.

Land Letter



*Waukesha County Land Conservancy
P. O. Box 2572
Brookfield WI 53008*

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53149

CUT YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS TREE – HELP WCLC **A benefit for our members and friends**

As part of the land management plan for the Tamarack Nature Preserve, the Conservancy's biologist would like to replace non-native evergreen trees with plants and trees that are native to Waukesha County. You can help with this process by cutting your Christmas tree here.

There are naturally grown spruce, fir and white pine available. We will not charge for the trees, but would ask that you to make a donation to the Waukesha County Land Conservancy when you pick your tree.

Where: **Tamarack Nature Preserve in Menomonee Falls**
On the south side of Good Hope Road,
1.5 miles west of Pilgrim Road (Hwy YY)

When: **Dec 1st and 2nd**
Between 10 AM - 2 PM

Picture is not indicative of actual trees available.

Bring your own hand saw, or choose your tree and let us cut it for you.