



Spring/Summer 2023



Collaborative Transformation

Your support helped enhance the Youth Stewardship Program to become the Emerging Conservation Professionals Program

Your support allowed the Youth Stewardship Program to become the Emerging Conservation Professionals Program. As part of the Program this year, OWLT is collaborating with the Land Restoration School (LRS) as site host and fiscal sponsor. The partnership restoration team is actively engaged in teaching field methods and hosting site work. This partnership is a great way to help meet our overall strategic goals and is a logical extension to the Emerging Conservation Professionals Program.

LRS began in 2021 with a big idea servicing two needs:

- ***There is not enough ecological restoration occurring on our lands and wetlands, in part because there are not enough trained people.***
- ***The few trained ecological restorationists come from the same communities or educational pipe lines, in part because there are not enough pathways to enter the practice.***

The LRS solution is an eight-week paid, residential academic program teaching the principles, practice and planning of ecological restoration for degraded lands and wetlands. LRS follows the Society for Ecological Restoration framework — a transformative educational immersion in land restoration with a learn-by-doing approach.

Also new in 2023, LRS is hosted by and in residence at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Field Station at the Cedarburg Bog. Only 30 minutes from Milwaukee, this renowned Field Station is situated within the largest intact wetland complex in southeastern Wisconsin.

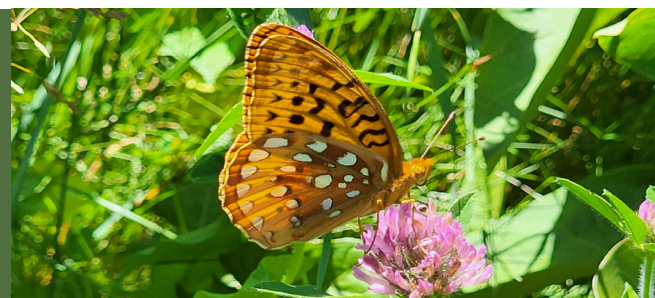
Your support makes this partnership possible. And, in combination with OWLT preserve lands, LRS now has access to a wide range of wonderful teaching and restoration habitats.

“LRS hopes to be a long-standing partner of OWLT in service of the ecological and social needs of our community.” - Nancy Aten & Dan Collins

To honor your generosity,
YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US
at a public presentation of the
LRS restoration planning work.

Thursday, August 3rd
For details and/or to RSVP
email us at owlt@owlt.org

Collaborative learning
Transformative work experience



Your support enhances VEGETATION flourishes



Bloodroot



Marsh Marigold



Pheasant Backs



Liverwort

Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria*) can be found in woods and forests. This plant is called bloodroot because the rhizomes (rootstalks) contain a bright red juice that resembles blood. It is one of the earliest wildflowers to begin blooming in the spring.

Marsh Marigold (*Caltha*) can be found in wet meadows, woods, forests, marshes, and streambanks. Marsh marigold is one of the first wetland plants to bloom in the spring when exposed to the sun.

Pheasant Backs or Dyrad's Saddle (*Polyporus squamosus*) has scales that create a feather like pattern giving its name Pheasant Back. The mushrooms act like parasites on living deciduous trees (particularly elms) and as decomposers of dead wood such as stumps and fallen logs. They are most common in spring but are also found in summer and fall.

Liverwort, Kidneywort, or Pennywort (*Hepatica*) can be found in upland woods and forests. There are two species of *Hepatica*; Round Lobed and Sharp Lobed. Their varies from white to purple.

Wild or Red Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) can be found in dry woods, forests, and cliffs in sandy, loamy soil. The inside structure of this flower consists of hollow, tube-like columns that are intended for the pollination of hummingbirds and long-tongued insects. The intricate colors and design of this flower are meant to attract these specific pollinators.

Jack-in-the-Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) can be found in moist woods and forests. This plant is named for its resemblance to a preacher (Jack) sitting in a pulpit. This plant contains a toxin known as calcium oxalate crystals, which can cause skin irritation to some people.

MANAGED UNWANTED SPECIES:

Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*) is an herbaceous biennial invasive species in the mustard family, that can be found on woodland edges and disturbed fields. Dame's Rocket looks like native Phlox; which has opposite leaves that are not toothed and the flowers have five petals, rather than the four that Dame's Rocket has.

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is an herbaceous biennial invasive species in the mustard family, that can be found on woodland floors. It exudes antifungal chemicals into the soil that suppress native plant growth.

Images and research gathered by the Land Stewards in the Emerging Conservation Professionals Program. See Facebook & Instagram for more educational posts.

WANTED

DEAD OR ALIVE



Dame's Rocket



Garlic Mustard

LIFE on the preserves!

WILDLIFE thrives

Blue Spotted Salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*) is a very cold tolerant found in most common in woodlands with permanent ponds. They usually are only seen during spring and fall movements and migrations. When attacked by a predator, they thrash around and release a foul-tasting, sticky substance. Salamanders are an indicator species, due to having semipermeable skin that can absorb water and toxins in their environment. That's why it is important to monitor their presence on the preserves. Though the status of the Blue Spotted Salamander is stable in Wisconsin, their population is declining due to urbanization.

Sandhill Cranes (*Antigone canadensis*) are often seen flying through the sky, walking around fields, prairies and wet meadows. Their call is very distinct, and their look is almost prehistoric. A group of Sandhill Cranes is called a sedge.

Wood Frog (*Lithobates sylvaticus*) is the northernmost frog species in North America, with populations all the way up in Canada and Alaska. These frogs breed in woodland ponds, depositing huge masses of eggs together in one spot. After breeding, they spend the remainder of the summer in the forest, where they can be found hopping amongst damp leaf litter.

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) are a type of heron, meaning they hunt for fish, amphibians, and aquatic invertebrates by wading in the water and using their long yellow beak to capture their prey. Though they mainly wade, great egrets are known to sometimes swim or even hover to hunt for their food. They are migrants that can be found in wetlands across Wisconsin from spring to summer.

Common Garter Snake (*Thamnophis*) is the most common snake in the Midwest and can often be found in gardens. Their common name "garter" comes from the stripes on their side, which resemble the stripes on garter belts. These snakes can emit a foul-smelling musk in defense, which they will often do when handled by people. Common garter snakes use their sense of smell to find prey, eating mostly insects and earthworms.

Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) can be seen soaring above fields, prairies, and bodies of water, eating flying insects out of the sky in large numbers. These iridescent blue birds get their name from nesting in the cavities of trees. They are the first Wisconsin swallow to arrive from migration in the spring, so keep an eye out for them in the skies of our preserves!

Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) is the largest turtle found in the Great Lakes region and can weigh 50 pounds or more as adults. They have few natural predators because of their ability to defend themselves with a powerful bite. Snapping turtles are a crepuscular species, meaning they are most active in the twilight hours. These turtles are highly aquatic, feeding while completely submerged to allow water pressure to aid in their swallowing.



Photo Courtesy of Kate Redmond





Newsletter photo credit: Kate Redmond and OWLT staff

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As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, your donation to Ozaukee Washington Land Trust is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

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**OWZAKEE
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A Place for our Children's Children

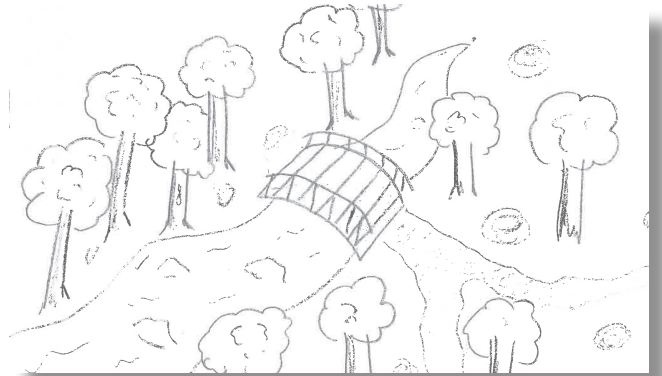
In 1992, A group of Ozaukee County residents decided to save the Whitmann property in Port Washington. This 22-acre parcel of land was a favorite of many in the area at the time, providing wonderful areas for wooded hikes, wildlife viewing, vegetation exploration, and cool dips or rewarding fishing expeditions in Sauk Creek. The residents respected the land and wanted to preserve all of its fantastic character to create a haven, which they affectionately referred to as **"A Place for our Children's Children."**

Who would have known that over 30 years later, that one act of land conservation - from supporters like you - would result in an organization that offers 35 Nature Preserve to the community! It was dedication and a love of the land that started this journey, and as we enter our next 30 years of aiming "to protect and steward land and water for the benefit of all," we are honored to know that you are traveling with us.

In the last several years we have seen multiple successes due to your generosity and dedicated support. OWLT's successes are yours and they honor the original community effort to provide **"A Place for our Children's Children."** As a thank you, please enjoy these wonderful excerpts from reflections made by the first school groups able to to enjoy Sauk Creek Nature Preserve from a nature-based educational perspective 30 years ago.

Today, these children are able to enjoy the nature preserves with their own children because of your support!

Nature
As we walk down the path the
chilling wind blew:
As we sat around the creek the ducks
swam silently.
As we sat upon rocks and tree stumps
the birds flew high above.
As we walked out of the woods all
the animals came out from hiding.
Nature how beautiful



The Creek

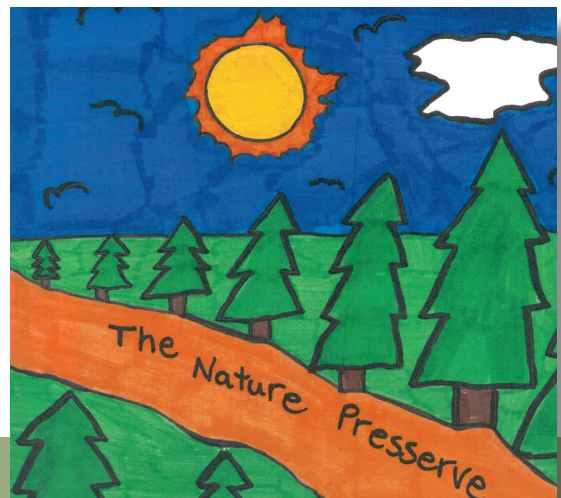
The creek is as peaceful as the old meadows,

It's sparkle reflects off the blue sky,

*As the water trickles down the waterfall
it reminds me of a clear spring giving me all it's
sparkling water,*

*As the ducks and the trout swim by , it reminds
me of a nice summer morning,*

*In it's own way the creek talks to us by showing
us it's beauty and features.*



**Your support continues to provide
"A Place for our Children's Children"**

IMPACT REPORT

Spring/Summer 2023



WITHIN THE LAST YEAR...

**INVASIVES SPECIES & DEBRIS CLEAN-UP
(OWLT TOUR de TRASH)**

OF ACRES SURVEYED & TREATED FOR PLANT INVASIVE SPECIES

180

OF 42+GAL BAGS OF DEBRIS REMOVED FROM ROADSIDES & RIVERSHORES

40

**TREES, LIVE STAKES, SHRUBS, & PLUGS
(PLANTINGS)**

POTTED TREES PLANTED ON THE PRESERVES

1,200

PLUGS PLANTED ON THE PRESERVES

2,000

LIVE STAKES PLANTED ON THE PRESERVES

6,000

BAREROOT TREES/ SHRUBS PLANTED ON THE PRESERVES

2,400

**VOLUNTEER TIME DONATED
(WE LOVE VOLUNTEERS)**

OF VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES

1,300

VALUE OF VOUNTEER TIME IN DONATION DOLLARS

\$41,340

MISSION STATEMENT:

To protect and steward land and water for the benefit of all.

Visit owlt.org to GET INVOLVED!



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