

The Deer Lake Conservancy Report

Fall 1998

Conservancy Begins Second Major Project

The Deer Lake Conservancy, working with the Polk County Land Conservation Office, the Balsam Branch Priority Watershed staff, the Department of Natural Resources, and the National Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) have begun the restoration of the Dry Creek drainage basin in watershed #3.

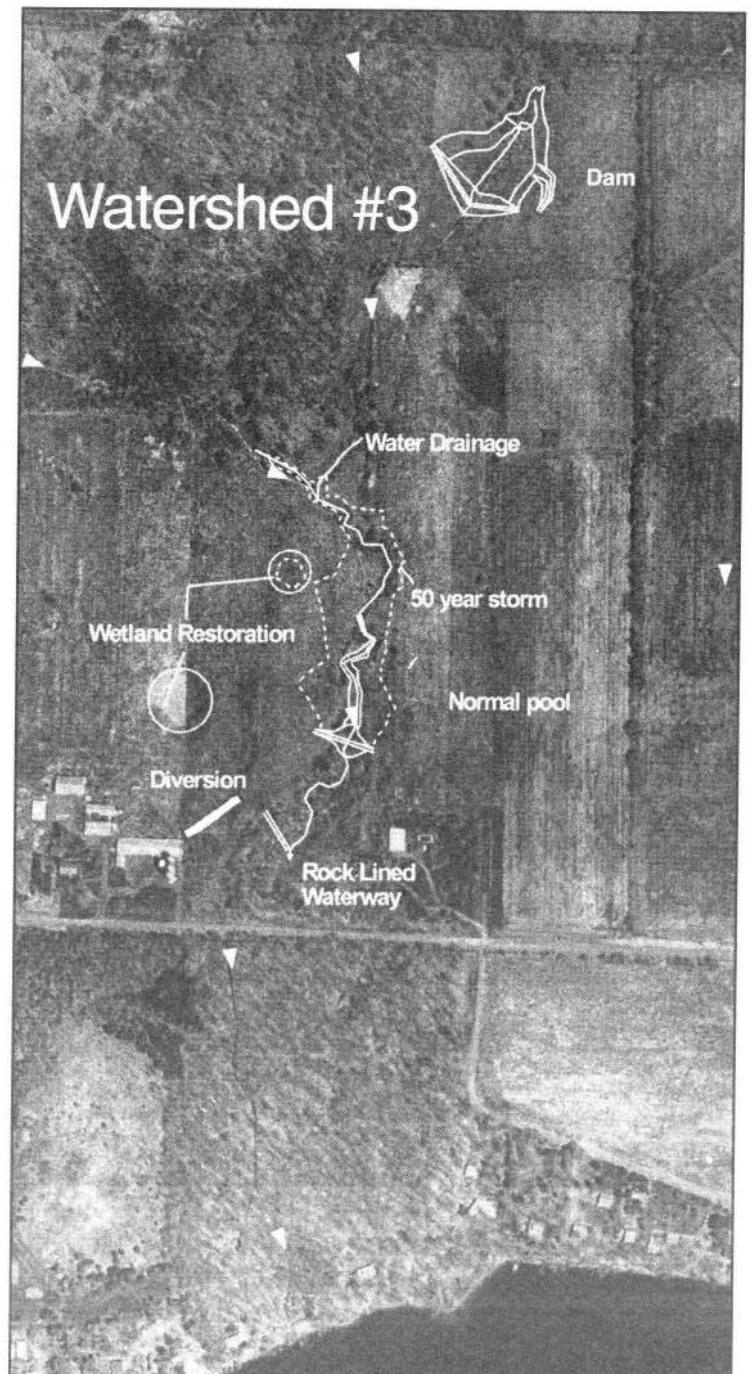
Landowners Randy Christenson and Fred and Barb French worked with the Conservancy and the Land Conservation Office to develop easements to restore two drained wetland areas on this watershed. The restoration project involves constructing two sediment basins, similar to the structure installed in watershed #2 last fall.

"These basins will slow the flow of water through this large ravine, greatly reducing erosion in the ravine itself, as well as capturing nutrient rich, sediment runoff from agricultural areas to the north," observed Dave Peterson of the Land Conservation Office.

Additionally, a diversion and rock spillway have been added to the barnyard area and more than 1,000 tires dumped into this ravine many years ago have been removed and will be recycled. "This was the source of the tires that were washed into the north side of the lake in the storm of June, 1996," commented Jim Miller, Conservancy president.

This project should reduce approximately 82 tons of sediment and more than 325 pounds of phosphorous from coming into the lake each year from this watershed.

"When completed, the DNR, the Polk County Land Conservation Office, the Deer Lake Improvement Association and the Deer Lake Conservancy will have contributed more than \$40,000 to the restoration of this area," observed Miller.



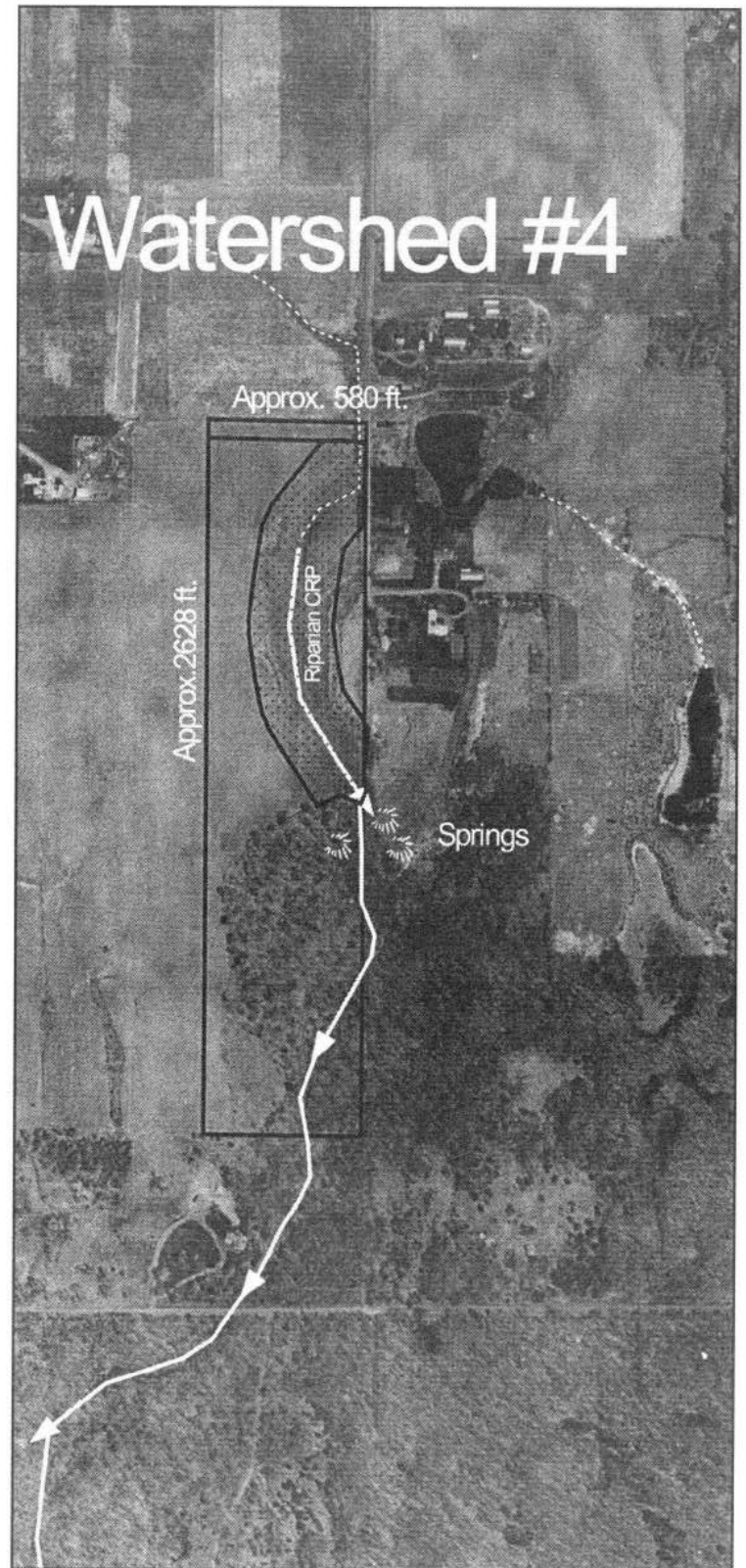
Rock Creek Property Acquired

The Deer Lake Conservancy has executed a purchase agreement to buy a critical 35 acre parcel of land in watershed #4, also known as Rock Creek Basin. Springs from this area provide the only off-lake source of fresh water to Deer Lake.

Watershed #4 is the largest Deer Lake watershed with more than 2,200 acres. There are over 1,500 acres in row crops in this watershed, which is a major concern for agricultural run-off. And all of this drainage flows through this parcel. Over the years, this sedimentation has had a dramatic impact on the west basin of Deer Lake and the springs that form Rock Creek.

With the acquisition of this basin parcel and the implementation of stabilization and restoration practices, it is believed that we can reduce the sediment and phosphorous loading from this watershed by 98%, according to Dave Peterson of the Polk County Land Conservation Office.

Rock Creek basin has been identified as an "environmental priority area" and will be enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program for a 15 year period. Funds from that program will be used to offset annual management expenses.. In addition, the area outside the drainage basin will be planted in tree cover and all additional acreage outside of the Conservation Reserve Program will be enrolled in the "Managed Forest Program", a 25 year program which will reduce the property taxes to \$2.00 per acre.



Conservation Leadership Award

The Deer Lake Conservancy was awarded the Polk County Conservation Leadership Award for 1998. The award recognizes the outstanding conservation organization in the county.

Fundraising Goal Surpassed

"We doubled the number of our founding members, plus many members made additional contributions following the appeal at the annual meeting," said Dennis Raedeke, chairman of the Deer Lake Conservancy. "The extremely positive and supportive response from residents has been terrific," continued Raedeke.

The Conservancy is now in a position to acquire the Rock Creek property without having to borrow the money.

Founding members have made a one time gift of \$1,000 or more in cash or securities. In addition to founding members, the Conservancy has over 30 annual members who contribute \$100 each year to cover the annual operating expenses of the organization.

Major Gift Makes Land Acquisition Feasible

Thanks to a significant contribution from Jim and Sylvia Earl, the Deer Lake Conservancy was able to acquire its first parcel of property. In recognition of this gift, the conservation project on this parcel will be dedicated to the memory of Margaret H. Earl, who was a resident of Deer Lake from 1928 to 1991.

The Conservancy Board of Directors would like to acknowledge all of the donations following the annual meeting that made this purchase possible.

\$55,000 Needed For 1999

"Critical to the next phase of implementation of the Deer Lake Comprehensive Land Management Plan will be the acquisition of additional land," announced Jim Miller, president of the Deer Lake Conservancy.

Three parcels of land totaling 47 acres have been identified for acquisition. The three agricultural parcels represent priority protection projects in watersheds #1, #3 and #4.

"\$55,000 is needed to complete these important acquisitions," said Miller.

"We need the support of as many members as possible to achieve these goals. If you have not yet contributed, please consider this very worthwhile investment in the future of Deer Lake," concluded Miller.

A donation card and return envelope have been included with this report for individuals interested in making year-end contributions.

Conservancy Submits 3 Major Grant Applications

The Deer Lake Conservancy has worked with the Polk County Land Conservation Office and the DNR to complete grant applications for the following projects.

- 1. Watershed #3** Polk County trail development grant to view restored prairies, wetlands and recently completed dam.
- 2. Watershed #1** Lake Protection Grant for restoration of the Blakeman/Hill pond.
- 3. Watershed #4** DNR Stewardship Grant that will repay up to 80% of the appraised value of the Rock Creek Basin property.

1998 Membership Roster

Founding Members

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Booker
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Foussard
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin McBride
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Raedeke
Mr. & Mrs. Hugo Victor
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Andersen
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Carroll
Mr. & Mrs. Bun Dawson
Mr. & Mrs. John Marinovich
Jim Miller & Lynn Gaspardo
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Weber
Deer Lake Improvement
Association
Mr. & Mrs. James Ostenson
Mrs. Elizabeth Murphy
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Schletty
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Fritzke
Dr. & Mrs. Allen Bergh
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Herzog
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ross
Mr. & Mrs. Rob Ilstrup
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Pohlen

Mr. & Mrs. James Earl
Dr. & Mrs. D. J. Dummer
Mr. & Mrs. Don Knutson
Dr. & Mrs. Ted Lindbom
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Hill
Dr. & Mrs. Tom Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rawlings
Mr. & Mrs. Richard L. Pease
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Becker
Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Blakeman
Merodie Riegel
Helen Rarig
Dr. & Mrs. John Dowlle
Bill & Linell Sathers
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Heartman
Don & Joan Leedy
Mary Coyte
Chuck Rabuse
Mr. & Mrs. Jean Adamson
Dr. & Mrs. Steve Sackett

Annual Members

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Chausee
Dr. & Mrs. Barclay Cram
Ms. Barbara Mork
Mrs. Patricia Lebens
Mr. Thomas Nolan
Mr. & Mrs. John Saylor
Dr. & Mrs. Mark Thayer
Terry Childers &
Colleen Fogarty
Mrs. Jan Chatterton
Mr. & Mrs. Stan Kane
Mr. & Mrs. Ken R. Lear
Mr. & Mrs. Wes Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. John Duxbury
Camp Lawton
Dr. & Mrs. Mark Boyken
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Riebe
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Boldt
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Sammond
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Patton
William L. Foussard
Dr. & Mrs. Fred Riegel

Mr. & Mrs. Randall Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. James Meyer
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Gornick
Dr. & Mrs. Geoffrey Bodeau
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Fautsch
Chris & Merry Krueger
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Nelson
Mr. & Mrs. John Tester
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Small
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Becker
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Boo
Ms. Judith Sitarz
Mr. R. C. Stanek
Dr. Vince Eilers

1998-99 Conservancy Officers and Directors

Dennis Raedeke, Chairman
Jim Miller, President
Jean Adamson, Vice President

Don Hill, Treasurer
John Marinovich, Secretary

Roger Foussard
Paul Fritzke

Dedicated to the preservation of Deer Lake

The Deer Lake conservancy is a tax exempt organization incorporated in the state of Wisconsin and also registered in Polk County. The purpose of the organization is the preservation of Deer Lake and the surrounding land that contributes to the natural, scenic, recreational and productive value of the lake. As a 501C (3) corporation, any contributions are fully deductible from Federal and State income tax. Contributions may be in the form of cash, securities, property and land easements.

Contributions should be sent to

The Deer Lake Conservancy
P.O. Box 1139
St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin 54024

Interested individuals may also contact Jim Miller by phone at 715-483-3338.