



Heritage

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Newsletter of the Johnson County Heritage Trust

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Administrator

Tammy Richardson

Bob Sayre presented 2005 Conservation Award

At JCHT's annual meeting held at Kent Park on April 30, the 2005 Conservation Award was presented to Bob Sayre, conservationist and long-time active supporter of the Johnson County Heritage Trust. When we celebrated our 25th Anniversary two years ago, we were in the midst of Bob's four-year presidency. We had become a mature organization that had undergone many changes. New properties were in sight, commitments to land management plans well in hand, and funding strategies developed. We had joined the national Land Trust Alliance, had become more active in identifying local land requiring protection, had strengthened our cooperation with other local conservation organizations, and had expanded our outreach to the public, in publications and activities.



A great deal of the credit for the many successes of recent years goes to our past president, Bob Sayre, who understands how much "We need the tonic of wildness We can never have enough of nature," quoting from Henry David Thoreau, one of his favorite authors.

Like Thoreau Bob has been an activist on behalf of his beliefs. Happily for us he has also been remarkably effective in carrying the Trust into its second quarter-century. In his History of JCHT Bob speaks to us of the need "to be more proactive – to look ahead and work with change, so that change can make us better stewards of our land and natural heritage." Just that proactive character distinguished the leadership Robert F. Sayre brought to four years as our President and describes his continuing involvement in our conservation efforts. He is well deserving of the 2005 Conservation Award.

David Curry

Fundraising Successes

The fundraising efforts, begun last summer and ably directed by co-Chairs Deb Pullin-Van Auken and Dick Schwab, have been very successful. A total of \$149,000 in pledges have been obtained, out of which we have actually received \$71,000 in donations to date. We want to thank all of you who have made generous contributions to improve the JCHT's ability to preserve local land with significant environmental value.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find a listing of our current donors. If your name is not on that list, don't despair! There is still time to make a contribution that will make a difference. The Fund-Raising Committee will continue its efforts to gather resources that will allow us to be conscientious stewards of the land with which we have been entrusted, to educate the public on the importance of retaining native woodlands and prairie within Johnson County, and to preserve additional lands for posterity.

Thanks to a designated gift from generous donors, we have been able to hire a part-time Administrator, Tammy Richardson (profiled elsewhere in this newsletter). In addition we have put the capital campaign dollars toward two new stewardship efforts on our properties. Tom Madsen, a talented young naturalist, has begun a spring-through-fall vegetation survey of all of our properties, which will give us important guidance about rare species that we should protect and invasive species needing elimination. The Trust has also hired its first intern this summer. Adam Galluzzo is a graduate student in Urban and Regional Planning. He has had significant experience working on conservation tasks in Iowa, Montana and Indiana, and he will be assisting us in the physical work needed on the properties as well as in planning efforts such as the organization of documentation on our new easement properties and research on various conservation alternatives. The chairs of our property management committees met in early June to establish priorities for short-term and long-term projects, and to begin to gather accurate cost estimates on the top priority projects. The Trust is working hard to maximize the positive results made possible by your donations.



David Curry

Strategic Planning

Our strategic planning is now complete and we are sharing our plan with you. We used the plan to define our 2005 annual goals; it is a useful guide for the Board's analysis and decision-making. Thank you again to the many JCHT supporters who spent a great deal of time and effort on the project.

Lorie Schweer and Dick Schwab

Johnson County Heritage Trust

2005 – 2009 Strategic Plan

Our Mission

To preserve our natural heritage through identification, acquisition and management of land with significant environmental value.

Our Values

Stewardship:	<i>Responsible stewards of the land.</i>
Integrity:	<i>Trustworthy in all that we do.</i>
Respect:	<i>Honoring the people, land, wildlife, water, air and plants of our county.</i>
Collaboration:	<i>Working with land owners and other organizations to achieve our goals.</i>
Commitment:	<i>Focused on fulfilling our mission.</i>

Our Goals

- *Identify and preserve land with significant environmental value.*
- *Develop and implement management plans for each Johnson County Heritage Trust property.*
- *Engage and energize the community through increased active membership, an energetic board and dedicated staff.*
- *Generate sufficient financial resources to fulfill our mission.*

Our Vision

The Land:

A Johnson County renowned for its preservation of prairies, woodlands, stream corridors, and wetlands:

- *colorful prairie plants line its roadways, native wildflowers carpet its forest floors, native wildlife species abound;*
- *carefully planned residential and commercial developments co-exist harmoniously with working farms and natural areas.*

The Community:

An informed citizenry understanding the wisdom of strategic land preservation, maintaining native biodiversity and sustaining natural communities:

- *we appreciate the agricultural heritage of our county and treasure the scenic, historic and economic value of our working farms;*
- *we encourage sustainable human communities that balance population growth with land preservation and unite fragmented natural areas with recreational trail and other corridors;*
- *local governments are committed to well-planned growth and to a land ethic that preserves native remnants for future generations.*

The Organization:

A J.C.H.T. working with other groups and our local governments to achieve this vision:

- *will actively identify special places and foster the voluntary preservation of unique natural areas,*
- *will generate sufficient funding through membership, donations and grants, and*
- *will be responsible in managing properties entrusted to us.*

We will have an active membership and a board with a passion for achieving our mission.



Pledges Made to Johnson County Heritage Trust

Oak Level: (\$24,000+)

Bob and Hutha Sayre—in honor of Nancy Seiberling

Dick Schwab and Katherine Burford

Walnut Level: (\$12,000 - \$23,999)

Jean and Jix Lloyd-Jones—in memory of Kate Klaus

Alan Nagel and Kristin Arnold

Hazelnut Level: (\$6,000 - \$11,999)

Alice and Kendall Atkinson—in memory of Ila Morse Smith

Carl Klaus—in memory of Kate Klaus

Ann and Dick Feddersen

Connie and Robert Mutel

Tom and Becky Gelman

Bluestem Level: (\$3,000 - \$5,999)

Brian and Anne Glenister

Moccasin Brook Fund

Iowa State Bank and Trust

Lorie Schweer

Trillium Level: (\$1,500 - \$2,999)

Amy and Paul Bouska

Tim and Sarah Krumm

David Curry and Donna Friedman Curry

Jane McCune

Gerald and Sandra Eskin

Wayne and Linda Petersen

Hills Bank and Trust

Russ and Cyndie Schmeiser

Coneflower Level: (\$750 - \$1,499)

Anonymous

Chris and Sheral Jensen

Enid and Pat Cancilla

Judith and William Klink

Ginny and Bryan Clemons

John McLaughlin

Terry Dahms

Mary and Paul Neuhauser

Jim and Karole Fuller

Dick and Rina Sjolund

Mary Lynn and John Grant—in honor of Bob Sayre

Dick and Joyce Summerwill

Bill and Jean Hines

Gene Szymkowiak and Erin Irish

Jean James

Anemone Level: (less than \$750)

Anonymous

HD and Myrene Hoover

Garrett Anstreicher

Dan and Jo Kinsinger

Neil Bernstein—in memory of Cal Knight

Judy Musser

Dan Black

Marilyn and George Nickelsburg

Ann Bovbjerg

Dee and Carrie Norton

Natasia Durovicova and Garrett Stewart

Teresa Opheim—in honor of Connie Mutel

—in honor of L. and L. Durovic

Deb Pullin-VanAuken & Chris VanAuken

Laurie and Dave Eash

Jack and Trudi Rosazza

John and Randee Fieselman

Becky Soglin

Ellie and Harry Graves

Carol Spaziani

Terence Hodgins

Ruth Swaner



JCHT Welcomes Administrator

JCHT is delighted to introduce Tammy Richardson as its new administrator. Tammy impressed the Search Committee with her competence, energy, fundraising experience, and involvement with conservation work in



Johnson County. Trust members may recognize her from her most recent job as Special Projects Coordinator with the Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District, where she organized the Prairie Preview and the annual tree, native plant, and prairie seed sale. Tammy credits JCHT Vice President Wayne Petersen with persuading her of the importance of conservation, and sees her new job as JCHT Administrator as a “smooth transition in pursuit of common goals.”

Working part-time from her home office, Tammy will help JCHT to develop its member, donor, and volunteer base through database management, fundraising, and outreach. She describes her main role as “organizer and communicator” to ensure that “everyone knows what everyone else is doing and works together.”

Tammy has lived near Swisher her entire life. She and her family enjoy hunting, fishing, camping, and other outdoor activities.

Mary Woolsey

JCHT on the Web

At the end of April, a new JCHT website went on-line at the same address, www.jcht.org. The new site provides information and photos for both members and the general public, and includes our strategic plan, annual goals, the roll of Conservation Award honorees, and links to local and national conservation groups. In addition to the history and board membership of JCHT, the site offers posting of current events, and a link to print out membership and contribution forms. For each property, links offer aerial photos and active GIS locator site services.

For those who may be interested in preserving land through JCHT or otherwise, the website provides a summary of conservation options.

Projects for the near future include posting JCHT events, the current Newsletter, an archive of past newsletters, and road maps for more readily finding our properties. Your suggestions for improvement are welcome: please send them to info@jcht.org.

Thanks are due to our original website guru Terry Dahms, to Bob Sayre for photos of Turkey Creek Preserve, and to Iowa City website designer and manager Kevin Crawley.

Alan Nagel

Propane Prairie Update

The “Iowa Today” section of the Cedar Rapids Gazette on May 2, 2005, featured a photograph of President David Curry examining the new growth at “Propane Prairie” several weeks after JCHT conducted a controlled burn there in early April. Pete Kollasch and members of the Iowa Prairie Network are conducting a vegetation survey of the approximately 2-acre plot, located west of Solon, to determine how many of the original prairie species survive. The results of the survey will help the JCHT decide whether to pursue acquisition of this property.

Mary Woolsey

*Please send in your contribution now.
Thank you!*

Name(s) _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
E-mail address _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____ to
support the Johnson County Heritage Trust.

Mail your contribution with this form in the enclosed envelope or address to:

Johnson County Heritage Trust
P.O. Box 2523
Iowa City, IA 52244

How to Reach Us

Johnson County Heritage Trust
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Iowa City, IA 52244
(319) 356-9124
www.jcht.org
E-mail: info@jcht.org

Johnson County Heritage Trust
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Contribution Amount _____ Date _____ Check No. _____

Contributions are eligible for tax deduction.
Please retain this portion for your records.

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