$500–$1,000
John and Jean Van Rybroek
United Natural Foods
Kristin Summerwill
Julie Scott and James Fluck
River Products Company
Wayne and Linda Petersen
Tom and Sue O’Dorisio
Brenda Nations and Art Bettis
Connie and Robert Mutel
Jane McCune and Bob Wachal
Mark and Judy Madsen
Donald MacDonald
Jix and Jean Lloyd-Jones
Liz Hall and Don Bolin
David and Sally Dierks
Katherine Burford and Kathie Belgum
Lain Adkins and Holly Carver

$1,001–$5,000
In-Kind Donations
Artistic Landscapes
Advocates Elderly Services
Artistic Creative Senior Services
Amapola Columbia Golf Club
Aragon and Miller Aquatics
Ava’s of Centerville
Burlington Water Reclamation
Kroft and Kathy Beauty
Dundie and Charley
Downey Chocolate
Drury Zoo
Drury Arts Nitory
Drury University
Kathleen Stucky-Stech
Dud Schmid
Coles Paphos Botanical Garden
Down to Virginia Clemens
Downtown Senior College
Cordon Ely
Terry and Matt Miller
Cottage Bakery and Deli
Dundie Pubs
Country Landscapes
Country Inn Bed and Breakfast
Mary Crooks
Country Stonemasons
Country Landscapes
Cottage Bakery and Deli
Val Cool and Mark Müller
Cookies Etc.
David and Jeanne Collins
Bryan and Virginia Clemons
Cedar Rapids RoughRiders
Katherine Burford and Brown Street Inn
Brick Arch Winery
Daniel Bray
Body Therapy
Bochner Chocolates
David and Lisa Bluder
Kristin and Cary Beatty
Augusta Restaurant
Agnes and Mike Apicella
Amana Colonies Golf Club
Air Cooled Engine Services
Advanced Electrical Services
Active Endeavors

$5,001-plus
Community Foundation of Johnson County
Lani and Ann Lerman
Robert and Sally Sigley
Harry Smith

In-Kind Donations
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Advocates Elderly Services
Artistic Creative Senior Services
Amapola Columbia Golf Club
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Kathleen Stucky-Stech
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May 2013
Johnson County Heritage Trust Environmental Journal

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Many thanks to all of you from JCHT President
Mark Madsen, Executive Director
Tammie Richardson, and all members of the board of directors!

Drawing of geese flying closely over Iowa farmland, grasses, and a field with a pond.

$2,000–$5,000
Lan Su and Polly Carter
Kathleen Burford and Mick Smith
David and Sally Shirk
Lad and Joe Bu Dinh and Son Linh
Donald W. Forton
Mark and Sally Shultzes
Jane Mcgrgure and Bill Michel
Carolyn and Robert Mielke
Brenda Sutete and Art Marine
Tara and John Cottino
Warner and Linda Reynolds
River Realities Company
Juan Alcain and Lance Buck
Ken and Sharilyn Hinnersger
Kristin and Fred Houdek
United Natural Foods
John and Joe Van Wyk

$1,000–$5,000
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Introducing CHT Board Member Paul Weller

Paul Weller’s recent history with the Johnson County Heritage Trust (JCHT) is as a volunteer and supporter. He has consulted for the International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the United Nations. He enjoyed hiking and camping in various parts of Europe, Asia, and the Americas. Currently a resident of a Biodynamic farm, he is continuing as the principal of farming since moving down from a conservation in Iowa.

President’s Column by Mark Madvin

This is a remarkably good time of year to recognize those board members whose tenures have ended, for it is especially hard to say goodbye to John Van Rybroek, Sharyn Hurian, Delphine Culliton, and Jeff Dorale. John has been a loyal and generous member of the board of directors for two years. During that time he has been vice president of the board, property manager of Turkey Creek Preserve, and chair of the Accreditation Committee. Sharyn, as the board treasurer, was in the pivotal position of helping to establish some more robust accounting software. She also served the Accreditation and the Governance and Investment Committees. Jeff Dorale served as a member of the Governance and Investment Committee and also chaired the Publicity Committee, which is responsible for publishing Heritage. Jeff was the chair of the Land Acquisition and Protection Committee, which has been incredibly active during his tenure, adding more than 200 acres of new protected land. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with such dedicated and productive folks.

On the brighter side, we have been fortunate in attracting three very capable people to our board this year: George Schrimper, chief operating officer of Global Wellness. Short biographies of our new board members can be found in this issue. This is especially true for JCHT in March as we began the process of generating a new strategic plan under the guidance of Jeff Elliott from the University of Iowa Institute of Public Affairs. JCHT has undertaken many changes in the past five years, and we are making significant strides towards commitment to the future. The board believes it is necessary that we have a comprehensive strategic plan that will give direction to the board and Development Committee and guide the organization over the next five years.

We are grateful for the widespread support we have received from those members of the public who have collaborated with the board to generate this new strategic plan. We also want to recognize the financial support we have received from the Midwest Program of the Land Trust Alliance and various volunteers and large donors that have given us a tremendous donation to allow us to achieve this crucial task. We will complete the strategic plan in the next issue of Heritage.

The Johnson County Heritage Trust JCHT.org

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Linda McIndoe and James Borello

Laurie and David Eash

Simone Delaty

James and Carol Cooper

Josephine Catalano

Jeanette Carter and Wayne Patton

Pat and Enid Cancilla

Jill Cooper, Earle Cooper, and John Cooper

Lori and Doug Lindner

Heidi Lauritzen

Juanita Kosier

John Koch

Linda Knowling

Johnny Kudlacek

Amy Kelan

Dawn and Donn Kirk

Jeff Lamberti

Lincoln Fuller

Joe Bolkcom

Phyllis Black

Liz Maas, Vice-President

Mark Madsen, President

George Schrimper, chair of the Accreditation Committee. Sharyn, as the board

Heritage Trust, Preserved Natural Heritage through Preserving and Managing Land and Water with Support from the Public.

Burton Allmendinger, President

Caitlin Collins

James Flack

Lindsey Fobbe

Mark Vanier

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Executive Director’s Report
by Tammy Richardson

JCHT members and friends, it has been a busy and productive few months since you’ve last heard from me. Wow! Our thirtieth annual Prairie Preview was a great success with standing room only and a record number of exhibitors. Strategic planning for our next five years is in full swing, and we should learn the results of our application for national accreditation in August.

The Nancy Seiberling Circle, JCHT’s $1,000 or more annual giving club, has been well received. A big thank-you to the following founding members: Don Bolin and Liz Hall, Connie and Robert Mutel, Jane McCune, Tom and Becky Gelman, Mark and Judy Madsen, Kristin Summerwill, Liz and Ryan Maas, Holly Carver and Lain Adkins, David and Sally Dierks, Jean and John Van Rybroek, James Fluck and Julie Scott, Judy and Bill Nauseef, Kathie Belgium, Robert and Hutha Sayre, Jix and Jean Lloyd-Jones, Dick Schwab and Katherine Burford, Terry and Laurie Dahms, Mark and Mary Ellen Stinski, Sharlyn and John Reitz, Jeffrey and Louise Smith, Wayne and Linda Petersen, Mary and Ken Lowder, Martha and Russell Noyes, Jody McKee and Carter Johnson, Kenneth and Janis Hubel, and Ken and Marybeth Slonneger. We’d love to see your name on this list!

With this issue we are adding two new features to Heritage. “From Our Members” will showcase the wide interests of our community. The inaugural essay is courtesy of Larry Weber; let me know if you would like to contribute to this new feature. And “Jake’s Tips” will provide welcome advice for restorationists throughout the seasons.

A very sincere thank-you to all of our volunteers. We couldn’t accomplish what we do without you. Feel free to visit the office anytime or contact me with your questions or concerns. JCHT is a growing organization full of vital and dedicated individuals who are valuable beyond measure. I look forward to talking with you.

Introducing JCHT Board Member Carter Johnson

While Carter Johnson pursued his doctorate in forestry, a research decision opened his eyes to the beauty and benefits of the native tallgrass ecosystem in Iowa. Subsequent volunteer experience restoring prairie at Indiangrass Hills in Iowa County propelled him to found Heritage Land Stewards, an ecological restoration business. An active participant in managing JCHT properties, he is a member of the Property Stewardship Committee. When he’s not out on the Iowa landscape, he enjoys fishing trips to his native Minnesota’s Boundary Waters Canoe Area as well as hiking trips to Colorado.

Introducing JCHT Board Member George Schrimper

George Schrimper retired from the UI faculty after serving as director of the Museum of Natural History and chair of the Museum Studies Program for twenty-nine years. He and his wife, Alliene, divide their time between Iowa City and a rural property overlooking a cold-water trout stream in Winneshiek County; they donated a conservation easement on this property to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation in 2008. George brings lifelong interests in natural resource conservation, environmental education, and property management to the JCHT board.

Upcoming Events

Visit www.jcht.org for updated information about these and other events.

Active Endeavors Advocate Weeks
April 19–May 4. Patagonia and Active Endeavors contribute funds to JCHT for each pair of Patagonia footwear purchased during this time.

Share the Profit Night  Vesta, Sunday, May 5

Nature walk with Larry Weber, Old Man’s Timber, Saturday, May 11

Family Day  Turkey Creek Preserve, Sunday, May 19

Benefit Sundays  Devotay, Sunday, June 2.
If you make reservations ahead of time by calling 319/354-1001, JCHT receives a larger percentage of the evening’s profits.

Family Day  Belgum Grove, Sunday, September 15

Property Steward’s Report
by Jake Hart

The last few months have been busy and exciting. Now that things are starting to warm up, there will be a tremendous number of new tasks at hand. We hope to do a fair amount of burning this spring on many of the properties. We will also be working on the usual pesky invasives. We have some work days planned and hope to see a few of you out there.

We received Environmental Quality Incentives Program funding this year for projects at Turkey Creek Preserve and Shimek Ravine. This will keep us busy throughout the summer with brush removal, burning, and a new prairie planting. We also received a very nice Restore Iowa! grant from the Iowa Native Plant Society for Pappy Dickens Preserve; we are very grateful for this grant. We plan to have Kirkwood students, high school students, students from other colleges, and volunteers help us on the project, which will involve restoring some of the preserve’s remnant oak savanna/woodland. We will begin brush removal this spring and hope to burn through the area we clear this fall. The grant is intended to involve youth in ecological restoration efforts, but we encourage volunteers of all ages to attend any of the work days we will have out at Pappy Dickens Preserve. Visit www.jcht.org for information about all our work days.

The coming warm weather will soon have many of us out and about again. I encourage you to visit one of our properties to enjoy the spring flora. Many of our areas have spectacular spring color, and if you haven’t experienced this yet you’ve been missing out.

 Jake’s Tips

Get out and pull or spray garlic mustard now, before everything else starts to green up. It will be easy to spot, and spraying it now will give you less to deal with later.
JCHT Acquires New Conservation Easement
by Holly Carver

In 2002 Ann and Ed Lorson built a house on a wooded lot in Westcott Heights, just north of Newport Road. They appreciated the natural areas around their house—becoming more knowledgeable about the birds and animals, enjoying the fact that their grandchildren could spend hours wandering the woods—but they had no plans to become more than suburban residents. All this changed in January 2009 when, foreseeing the dangers of development, particularly unrestricted development, they decided to buy about thirteen acres adjoining their home.

That September, Ann and Ed asked district forester and JCHT board member Mark Vitosh if he could survey their property. Mark created a forestry plan that focused on the work that could be done to restore the Lorsons’ woodland. He also gave them information about conservation easements. Concerned about protecting their land not just for the present but for the future, the Lorsons decided to pursue this idea and began working with JCHT to make it happen. On December 17, 2012, they closed on the agreement, and their 13.46 acres became JCHT’s twelfth conservation easement. Two days after signing, JCHT Property Steward Jake Hart along with Carter Johnson walked the property with the Lorsons to discuss future plans for helping them manage it.

The Lorsons’ property is adjacent to another protected area to the east—fifteen acres of common area in the Westcott Heights development—and the land to the west will be difficult to develop. Having this new easement in an area susceptible to development—close to Iowa City and Coralville and near the interstate—is particularly welcome. Although Ed and Ann had already been working to restore their land, including reconstructing native prairie behind their house, they are more committed than ever to managing their land for the future: to maintain and enhance its biological diversity and wildlife habitat for game and to keep the woodland in good condition for future generations.

With help and advice from JCHT, they plan to eradicate autumn olive, buckthorn, multiflora rose, and other invasives, monitor the encroachment of garlic mustard, and protect the large white oaks, red oaks, shagbark hickories, and walnut trees. Turkey, pileated and red-headed woodpeckers, orioles, red fox, raccoon, deer, and many other birds and animals call these acres home, and it is clear that providing a permanent safe haven for them is extremely important to both Ed and Ann. According to Ed, relying on “our age-adjusted capabilities, we will do this as long as we can.”

This new easement brings JCHT’s fee-owned acres to eight with a total of 267 acres and our conservation easements to twelve with a total of 253.24 acres for a grand total of 520.24 acres under our watch. We are grateful to Ed and Ann Lorson for their generosity and their dedication.

Accreditation Update by James Fluck

JCHT’s board of directors participated in a telephone conference call with the Land Trust Accreditation Commission in early February to discuss our application. We sent twenty-five additional (and, we hope, final) items of documentation to the commission on April 13. We should learn about our accreditation in early August. Cross your fingers!
THOMAS ROSBURG, professor of biology at Drake University Biodiversity Center and Herbarium, ace nature photographer, and a veteran of almost three decades of prairie research, was the key speaker for this year’s thirtieth (yes, thirtieth) Prairie Preview.

For many of us, Prairie Preview is as much a harbinger of spring as the arrival of the first robins, red-winged blackbirds, and seed catalogs. This year’s brisk but not brutal weather (think back to blizzard-pounded Prairie Previews of past winters) contributed to a record turnout of attendees and exhibitors. Almost 300 people visited nearly 40 exhibits displayed by such kindred groups as Backyard Abundance, the Johnson County Conservation Board, UI’s Office of Sustainability, the East Central Iowa Beekeepers Association, and the Songbird Project and enjoyed the cookies generously provided, as always, by the Four Seasons Garden Club.

Speaking on “How Prairies Work,” Tom Rosburg taught a short course—call it Prairie Studies 101—that focused on the connections between Iowa’s landforms and their geology, species diversity, and geography. Describing the interactions among grasses, wildflowers, and insects—the “who’s eating whom” of this food web—the effects of fire on microclimate and species, and the importance of soil, he clearly demonstrated the beauty and complexity of all kinds of prairies as well as the significance of conserving them. His detailed and informative talk and his maps, charts, and photos emphasized the environmental damage that might continue without the dedication of JCHT members and all the members of the groups that filled the hall on this chilly March evening.

From Our Members

POSTED ON MARCH 31, 2013: On Easter Sunday, between mass followed by breakfast at Her Soup Kitchen and making dinner for Ben and Michael, Miechelle and I were able to go for a walk at Old Man’s Timber. The weather was gorgeous, and a high clear sky with a light breeze out of the northwest greeted us as we walked through the timber. The timber floor was still a little damp from the recent snowmelt and light rain, making our walk seem especially peaceful. We walked quietly through the ridgetop and made our way down onto the floodplain. As we approached the barred owl’s nest, I readied my camera, wondering if the mother owl would take flight. Suddenly, she was on her way!

As soon as the mother was safely away, I took a quick photo in the nest and was delighted to see the baby owlets. If you look carefully, all three eggs have hatched, and three owlets are comfortably intertwined together in the nest.

—Adapted from Larry Weber’s blog “Old Man’s Timber,” http://www.iihr.uiowa.edu/old-mans-timber. Larry and Miechelle are restoring this pristine but neglected woodland at the confluence of Old Man’s Creek and Old Women’s Creek in Johnson County. In his words, “Miechelle and I have thoroughly enjoyed connecting with the natural wonders at Old Man’s Timber, including the diversity of woodland plants, wildlife, and ever-flowing creeks. We both feel very blessed to be stewards of this land, which has become intricately woven into the fabric of our lives.”

Female barred owl with hatchlings. Photos by Larry Weber.
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Johnson County Heritage Trust
www.jcht.org

Introduction of CHT Board Member Paul Weller

Paul Weller recently retired from the Finance Department of the University of Iowa. He has served as a Trustee of the Board of Directors for many years, and has been active in community affairs. Mr. Weller has served as a Director of the Johnson County Heritage Trust since 1979, and has been instrumental in the development of the Heritage Trust’s programs and activities. Mr. Weller is a long-time supporter of the Heritage Trust, and has made significant contributions to the organization. He is a valued member of the Heritage Trust’s Board of Directors, and his leadership and commitment to the organization have been essential to its success.

President’s Column

This is a retirement year for me. Time to say farewell to those board members whose terms have ended. There is an unusually long list this year—especially hard to say goodbye to John Van Rynbok, Sharlyn, Martha Phillips, McConnell, and J.J. In the list of board members this year, I am especially grateful for the contributions of Donna Jondle, who has been a long-time member of the Heritage Trust and has served on numerous committees. Donna has been a valuable resource for the Heritage Trust and her contributions have been invaluable. Donna is a true friend and I will miss her dearly. I also want to thank all of the Heritage Trust’s staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication. I have been fortunate to work with some of the most dedicated and productive folks. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with such dedicated and productive folks.

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This is a letter from the Johnson County Heritage Trust.

**To Our Supporters**

The Johnson County Heritage Trust, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has been protecting the natural and cultural heritage of Johnson County since 1995. We are here to ensure that our region’s natural and cultural treasures are preserved for future generations.

**Governing Board Members**

- **President: John F. Garrity, CPA**
- **Vice President: John and Jackie Stokes**
- **Secretary: Frederick Kanute**
- **Treasurer: Mike and Pam Moran**

**Recent Donors**

- **MidAmerican Energy**
- **Christopher Munoz and Mary Monroe**
- **Jody McKee and Carter Johnson**

**Current Projects**

- **Restoration of the Old Stone House**
- **Development of the Heritage Park**

**Contact Information**

Website: www.jcht.org
E-mail: info@jcht.org
320 Kirkwood Avenue, Suite 2, Iowa City, IA 52240

**Our Mission**

The Johnson County Heritage Trust is dedicated to preserving the natural and cultural heritage of Johnson County, Iowa. We work to ensure that our region’s resources are protected and enjoyed by all.

**Recent Achievements**

- Protected over 200 acres of land in 2023
- Hosted a successful fundraising event in 2023

**Support Us**

To learn more about how you can support our mission, please visit our website at www.jcht.org.

**Sincerely,**

The Johnson County Heritage Trust Board of Directors