

Jackson Landing Newsletter

Westshire Conservancy

“An early-morning walk is a blessing for the whole day.” – Henry David Thoreau

If I had waited until November 1 to write this newsletter it could be correctly referenced as the “Jackson Landing Yearly Newsletter”. In other words, my apologies for not fulfilling a promise to myself to ‘publish’ every three months....or so. I will use my oft used excuse, “It was a heck of a year to accomplish anything!”

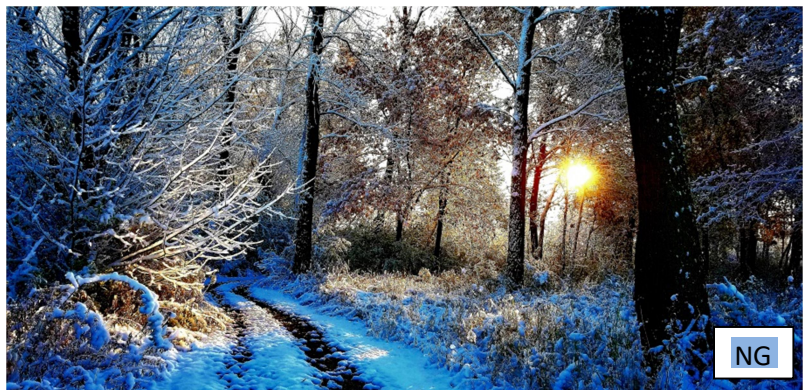
My inspiration to be sitting at the computer now, comes from the many ‘on-the-trail’ introductions and meetings with those of you who found me blocking the trails. Thanks for trusting me with the necessary information (cell phone and emails) that I need to share any latest news of the happenings in the conservancy.

A short walk will reveal the appeal of The Landing. The birds love it. The bees love it. The prairie is celebrating its best and most colorful year, and as important, those who have ventured into its depth, found a great place to enjoy a brief respite from often depressing day ‘at the office’!

Time spent can be a multi-sensory time. From what I’ve read in the Journals in the shelter, it’s always beautiful, (except the invasive species), the birds are always singing somewhere, folks cross paths exchanging greetings, animals scurry across paths, and you might also be greeted by the resident sandhill cranes.

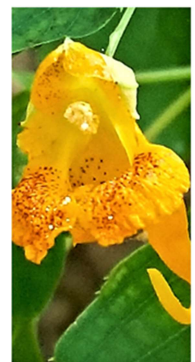
On occasion you might cross paths with Nancy Gulyas who has been assigned (by me) as ‘conservancy photographer’. Early or late, she can be seen sneaking up on creatures hidden from the average eye. (See pics) Don’t neglect your cell phones as a documentary tool. Take ‘em and send ‘em to me. Our photo library is growing and there is a need for more. Send to Jim at: jswiwr33@tds.net.

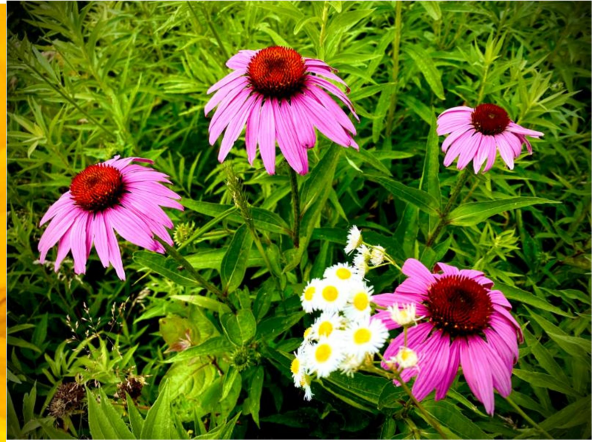
Enjoy your walk!



“I met a lot of young people who asked me what books to read or films to watch. I think that is a good way to start, but there’s no substitute for just going there.”

Yvon Chouinard





"Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."

Warren Buffett



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The stately bur oak, native to the Midwest, is a great choice as a shade tree and for specimen plantings in parks, spacious yards, and other large areas. Its massive trunk has gray to brown furrowed bark and its branches bear lustrous dark green leaves that turn yellow-brown in fall. Large acorns with fringed caps attract birds and small

“When you’re young, there’s so much that you can’t take in. It’s pouring over you like a waterfall. When you’re older, it’s less intense, but you’re able to reach out and drink it. I love being older.”

Sigourney Weaver

Recognize these excerpts?

Other settlers are moving to the area. Although neighbors may live a few miles apart, they share provisions and take care of one another. The Indians share these prairies; however, they resent the white man and do not interact with them. The government has been pushing the Indians out of their land for years. They are being forced west to settle in new areas as the white man continues to settle their land.

By the sound of cattle rumbling nearby, Pa knows that cowboys are heading north with their herds. Two men stop by to speak with Pa about herding cattle along the creek. In exchange for his help, Pa brings home beef and a new calf that couldn’t make the journey. Now the Ingalls will have milk and cream to eat, too!



Nancy Gulyas

Photos-Submit yours to jswiwr33@tds.net

Reminder: Feel free to forward ideas, comments, photos, observations

*Many have enjoyed walking the trails this summer. Thanks for the trail talks.

*Some have asked about the opportunity to volunteer. The answer is a loud yes. Covid-19 has limited most possibilities, although there are several small projects you might consider on your walks. Let's hope for the opportunity to meet as a group next spring or summer.

1. Our number one enemy, a 'twosome', is buckthorn and honeysuckle. I can meet most anytime to help identify. You will see some trees now being cleared at the base. Their magnificence deserves it. You will notice some flagging identifying those trees. Please call (Jim:608-225-1226) if that is something you might consider. Requires 'loppers' or heavy pruners. Brush should be piled nearby off the trail...the bunnies will thank you.

2. Help keep the trails clean and free of objects to prevent tripping. Look up for hanging branches/limbs. Report to Jim or the Westport Office with the location.

3. Share your books, magazines in the little library in the small shelter near the bridge. Take what is interesting to you.

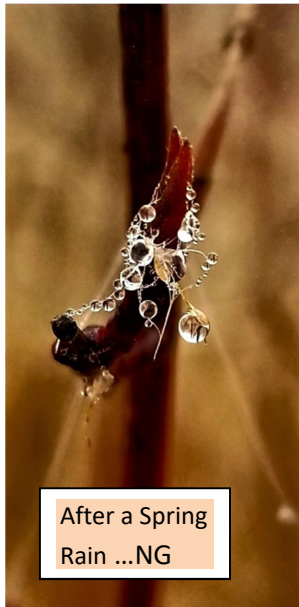
4. There are Journals in the podium in the small shelter. Pencils/pens are there also. Contribute if you wish. Dog poop bags are in there also. Tacks are for posting anywhere on the backboard.

5. Report/record unusual wildlife sightings. Over the years we've had reports of mink in Jackson Creek (at the bridge). Observe quietly from the bridge,(the Landing). You might be surprised. Would you believe....otters? Eagles and ospreys?

6. Always carry your masks when walking. We all have a distance expectation, even in the wonderful open air at Jackson. Assume a comfortable distance when meeting on the trails.

Wisconsin's Natural Communities, by Randy Hoffman, University of Wi Press

Wisconsin's Natural Communities is an invitation to discover, explore and understand our richly varied natural environment. Part 1 of the book explains 33 distinct types of communities, their characteristic trees, beetles, fish, lichens, butterflies, reptiles, mammals, wildflowers and the effects of geology, climate and historical events on these habitats. Part 2 describes and maps natural areas that are outstanding examples of many different natural communities around the state. Intended for anyone who has a love for the natural world, the book is an excellent introduction. Great for landowners, public officials, and other stewards of our communities, including our own Jackson Landing. It is an important tool with the knowledge to recognize natural communities and manage them for future generations. Randy is a natural-areas management specialist with the Bureau of Endangered Resources for the WDNR, past president of the Wi Society for Ornithology. He was the first person to record sightings of more than 300 bird species in 1 calendar yr. *He is a resident of Waunakee!*



After a Spring
Rain ...NG



On the trail. NG



And finally. Thanks, whoever you may be, for the following journal entry....written from the heart I'm sure, while enjoying the moments of solitude before returning to the not-so-far-away world. Author unknown..... enjoy.

*I am a child of nearly 70 yrs.
What I love about being a child (still) ;
. banana splits with cherries on top
(even better when shared with grandchildren) ;
. listening to the breeze and the plants talking to each other . I wish I understood breeze and plant language
. hearing the birds telling each other
Here she comes again She's OK . "
. Laughing out loud
. Playing out loud - sometimes. I even play on the phone but not much. I love playing outside ! ! ! !
. not cleaning my room. Enjoying the randomness
playing pranks - like spraying
water on people . They act like They don't like it but they do .
. Blowing bubbles and trying to catch them ,
hugging and squeezing
. Watching God's wondrous creations like a butterfly flying or a flower rising from the ground and slowly showing its colors and remitting its beautiful scent .
. Pizza and buffalo wings
I could continue but I am at the end of the page .
The imagined waves of the cars on M are calling me in from recess.
A delicious Day.*