

Our mission is to  
preserve our rural heritage  
by protecting remaining  
farmland, water resources,  
natural areas and open spaces  
impacting Northwestern  
Waukesha County.



SPRING 2009

## QUAD/GRAPHICS TEAMS WITH TPC TO PRESERVE 325-ACRE PARCEL OF PRISTINE WISCONSIN FORESTLAND IN THE MID-KETTLE MORAINÉ

Quad/Graphics President & CEO Joel Quadracci announced on Earth Day that the company has donated a conservation easement on its 325-acre Camp/Quad parcel of land in Erin, WI., to Tall Pines Conservancy.

from the Boy Scouts of America in 1997 to serve as an educational and recreational nature center for Quad/Graphics employees and their families and friends.

Camp/Quad is considered to be part of one of the most pristine natural and geologically significant areas in Southeastern Wisconsin. It is a primary parcel located within the "Mid-Kettle Moraine" – an area extending from the northern Kettle Moraine unit (northern Washington County) to the southern Kettle Moraine unit (southern Waukesha County). Currently, approximately 2,000 acres of property have been preserved in the Holy Hill area of the Mid-Kettle Moraine. Camp/Quad features the Little Oconomowoc River, valuable wetlands, large hardwood forests and several rare plants. It is also part of the 880-acre Murphy Lake-McConville Lake Wetland complex that helps maintain water

*(continued on page 2)*



*Conservation easement ensures Camp/Quad will remain undeveloped.*

"When we purchased the land in 1997 we always intended for it to remain in its pristine condition," said Mr. Quadracci. "Designating Camp/Quad as a conservancy is an ironclad way to ensure the land can never be developed commercially, residentially or otherwise and that it will continue to serve as an environmental showpiece and education center for generations to come."

"I applaud Quad/Graphics and its vision and commitment to preserving the character of this unique tract of land," said Tall Pines Conservancy Executive Director Susan Buchanan. "Camp/Quad is brimming with natural resources, and Tall Pines is immensely grateful for the opportunity to be part of the effort to safeguard and manage such an ecological treasure."

The private property is situated near Highways 83 and Q in the Town of Erin. It was purchased

## TALL PINES CONTINUES TO GROW!

*by Truman D. Schultz*

Springtime and increased enjoyment in the outdoors should have finally arrived by the time you read Tall Pines Conservancy's latest newsletter! We will once again be enjoying, however subconsciously, the greening of open spaces that surround our homes and communities.

The dedicated Staff, Committee Members, Volunteers and Board Members of Tall Pines Conservancy have been busy working towards and assisting in the preservation of the very green spaces we are enjoying this spring!

A review of accomplishments since its inception reveals that Tall Pines Conservancy is a most viable organization, strong in its mission, desirous of helping land owners preserve the open space of their property and communities.

*(continued on page 4)*

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*Tall Pines Conservancy is a  
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# ask THE EXPERTS Q&A

## QUESTION:

**WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP MANAGE WOODED LOTS?**

## ANSWER:

It's a great time to own wooded property. There are more resources available to landowners today than ever before. Information abounds from print, internet, and local organizations and agencies. There are federal and state programs in which woodlots can be enrolled and management regimes can be outlined and cost-shared.

The NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) oversees a program called WHIP or Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program. Wooded acres can be enrolled and cost-share values will be put in place to help defray the costs of management. Speak to your local NRCS office to find out if there is a WHIP sign-up in your county and if you might be eligible.

The Wisconsin DNR manages a program called MFL or Managed Forest Lands. Here, a DNR forester writes a long-term stewardship plan that takes into account all of the goals the landowner has for the property. There is substantial tax savings involved with enrollment into MFL and both MFL and the WHIP program will outline mandatory management practices that must occur within a specific time frame.

It can all be a little overwhelming to a new landowner who has just purchased wooded property or even to those families that have owned wood lots for generations and have made the important decision to actively manage the property.



The goals of management are almost never simple or singular in nature. In general, most landowners want to ensure the long term health and quality of their woodlots while enhancing wildlife value and aesthetic appeal. But what does that mean and how do you define quality and value?

One of the most important places to start is to have a professional forester meet with you and assess your timber stand or wooded area. The Wisconsin DNR has foresters in every county that can perform this service for you, and there are also numerous private sector forestry and land management consultants who do this work for a living.

The most common issue facing woodlot owners today is invasive species. This is also the most common-sense place to start in terms of active management. Woody invasive species such as box elder, prickly ash, honeysuckle, buckthorn, sumac, black locust and others degrade the quality of a woodlot in many ways. These species grow much faster than quality native trees and spread prolifically. They crowd out and out-compete native shrub, tree and broadleaf species within a woodlot. Traditionally, these species were either not present (most are non-native exotic species introduced accidentally or intentionally) or were contained by wildfires that occurred



*Clay Frazer,  
EC3 Environmental  
Consulting Group*

## WHAT'S NEW ON TPC'S WEBSITE

In an effort to provide our members with more resources, we have added a "Partners" button to the top of our home page. On the partner page, you will find not only links to our many great partners who assist us in our work, including municipalities, environmental organizations and other land trusts, but also valuable information on farmland preservation, our region, invasive species management, and recent workshops. Specifically, you will find links to videos on phragmites and garlic mustard control, the Mid-Kettle Moraine region—all of which are fairly short and provide a wealth of insights. ▲

## QUAD/GRAPHICS TEAMS WITH TPC... *(from page 1)*

quality in the lake country area of Northwest Waukesha County and the Oconomowoc River Watershed that supplies a wide variety of sport fish and forage fish species including threatened and endangered species. Conservation of this property will help preserve critical aquatic and wetland habitats and associated wildlife.

Under the terms of the conservation easement, Quad/Graphics maintains its ownership of and access rights to the property whereas Tall Pines will be responsible for monitoring the property to ensure the continuance of environmentally responsible land management practices.

The easement has been designed to establish development restrictions as well as to initiate a management plan for restoring the land to a pre-settlement state. With the help of volunteer resources from Tall Pines Conservancy and Carroll University students and staff, Quad/Graphics will be taking steps to manage invasive plant species on the grounds; protect the water quality of the Oconomowoc River watershed; and enhance existing educational and recreational features. Carroll University currently uses the site as an outdoor classroom.

"We recognize the environmental importance of making sure this land remains untouched and unspoiled," Mr. Quadraci said. "As a conservancy, Camp/Quad will serve as a meaningful and timeless embodiment of our commitment to taking better care of our world."

Tall Pines is thankful to Quad/Graphics for their generous donation and we look forward to working in partnership with them as stewards of this unique environmental asset. ▲

*(continued on page 4)*

# LOCAL PEOPLE, LOCAL LAND



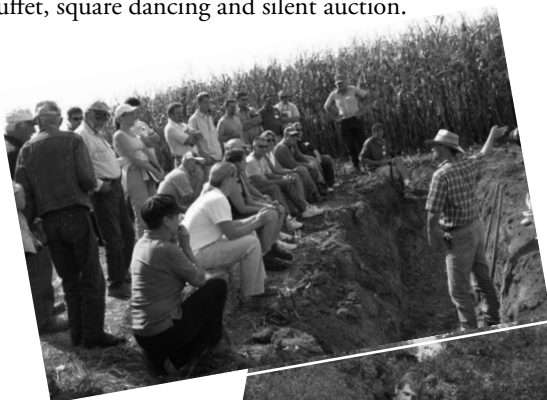
## TPC Winter Games • January 25, 2009 • Camp Erin

Hosted by Nancy & Sam Bradt and Katie & Charlie Brumder, Winter Games was an event offered through TPC's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dining Series. Attendees enjoyed cross country skiing, snow shoeing, and a dinner buffet near a warm fireplace.



## Fall Harvest • October 11, 2008 • Faye Gehl Conservation Foundation Barn

In effort to raise funds for the preservation of natural areas and open spaces, TPC held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fall Harvest. Members and guests enjoyed a country buffet, square dancing and silent auction.



## Discovery Farms Day • September 25, 2008 • Koepke Farm

TPC's board and staff attended Discovery Farms Day, an educational day highlighting the best farm management practices that maintain the viability of farmland.

## TALL PINES CONTINUES TO GROW... *(from page 1)*

The Board was expanded to eleven members last year to provide diversity and additional expertise. Our first Executive Director, Susan Buchanan, was hired last year, giving impetus and assistance to the Board, Committee Members and Volunteers in



*TPC's President,  
Truman D. Schultz*

the function and promotion of Tall Pines Conservancy. Susan is ably assisted by Administrative Coordinator, Katie Brumder.

The five committees, Communication, Finance, Development, Conservation and the Nomination, total a membership of 26 individuals. Each of the Committees has its goals, which are in various stages of accomplishment. The Conservation Committee, for example, is refining its focus on areas that would be most suitable in which to work with land owners in the preservation of agricultural lands. The Communication and Fund Raising Committees, along with Susan, have been instrumental in reaching out to individuals, various organizations and foundations in securing the necessary funds to keep our organization moving forward. Our 2008 budget of \$300,000 was exceeded by 10% last year, indicating that Tall Pines must be carrying the right message in the areas of northwestern Waukesha County. The Finance and Nominating committees keep their eyes on our financial and governing stability.

Through our organization's annual meetings, educational gatherings at the township levels, fund raising dinners, newspaper ads and magazine articles, Tall Pines has grown not only to a membership of 300 families and individuals, but has been recognized by individuals, businesses and communities outside our target area. This has been evidenced by their asking for conservation easement information and assistance. Our communication activities are producing results!

Tall Pines works very closely with Gathering Waters, our state's land conservancy organization, which, in turn, follows the national Land Trust Alliance's practices and standards whereby land conservation easements are legally assessed, written and transacted in accordance with IRS regulations. We are also working closely with

the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) on implementing the recommendations of the Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative including programs for Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE), Transfer of Development Rights, and the establishment of Agricultural Enterprise Areas.

Our mission statement is strong. Our Board, Committee Members and Volunteers are dedicated. Our need for continued participation from you, our valued member, and our need for your continued generous donations is unending. Your support enables Tall Pines Conservancy to continue promoting the conservation of our treasured open spaces and agricultural lands. ▲



*"On the Biersach Easement" Photo by  
George Van Veghel, Tall Pines Volunteer*

## WOODED LOTS... *(from page 2)*

often enough to keep them from dominating an area. Prescribed fire is still one of the most useful and important tools available to manage hardwood forests and prairie ecosystems. Well-timed prescribed burning can also set back many herbaceous invasive species in woodlands such as garlic mustard and burdock. Oak/hickory woodlots are ecologically fire dependant systems. Without fire or some process that replicates fire, the native hardwood forest will succumb to invasive trees and shrubs, and it happens faster than you might think.

After invasive species are eradicated (or at least on their way to being eradicated) the next logical step is called Timber Step Improvement or TSI. This involves removing specific trees within a stand of timber in order to enhance the value and quality of the remaining trees. Again, a professional forester would "mark" the timber for thinning in order to open forest canopy to facilitate native tree seedling growth or to encourage the growth of the remaining older trees. With some programs for forest management, structure exists within the program to help you find a service that will also harvest these trees for you and perhaps even pay you to do so if there is market value in the timber being harvested.

Often times TSI is conducted over many years. It can also be done in a much more defined time-frame by a professional land management company. The important thing is to stay motivated and focused by setting realistic goals. If you are tackling numerous acres and you are relegated to occasional weekend work with a chainsaw, try to break the woodlot into smaller, more manageable units. Start working in the areas of highest priority such as in areas that are infested with mature, seed-producing invasive trees. There are also herbicide application methods that can kill these mature invasives without physically removing them.

Make sure you understand the proper herbicides to use in preventing woody invasives from re-sprouting. Cutting a buckthorn tree and allowing it to recover (or treating it with the wrong herbicide, or the right herbicide mixed improperly) is one of the deepest pitfalls I see landowners fall into when going it alone.

Before cutting any woody species from your property, be sure to consult with a professional land manager or professional forester to confirm the species you will be removing are invasives/non-natives or native species that need to be thinned. And before cutting trees in or near a wetland or near a navigable stream or lake, consult a DNR wetlands specialist and The Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use as a permit maybe required.

Again, arm yourself with as much knowledge as possible before committing large amounts of time and money on woodland management. You'll find the some of the greatest rewards of owning forested land lies in proper and consistent active management. ▲

Clay Frazer is a Land Management Consultant with EC3 Environmental Consulting Group, Inc. specializing in Natural Resources and Land Management services. [www.EC3grp.com](http://www.EC3grp.com).

# SAVING RURAL LAND WORKSHOP—A BIG SUCCESS

by Susan Buchanan



*Bob Wagner, Senior Director of American Farmland Trust*

*John Koepke of Koepke Farms*

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, Tall Pines Conservancy hosted a Saving Rural Land Workshop together with the Towns of Oconomowoc, Merton, Ashippun and Concord, and sponsored by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the American Farmland Trust. The workshop drew an audience of 55 including many property owners, officials and environmental professionals to hear the keynote speaker, Bob Wagner, Senior Director from the American Farmland Trust discuss successful farmland preservation strategies across the nation. John Koepke, of Koepke Farms, presented highlights from the Ultimate Land Use Bus Tour he attended last fall out East, and Dave Jelinski, from DATCP, and Vicki Elkin, Gathering Waters spoke about the Governor's Working Land Initiative's recommendations and the status of farmland preservation in our state budget. ▲

# FROM THE... EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tall Pines Conservancy has a new look! Can you tell what's new about us? Here's a hint, it's on the front page. It's hard to believe, but Tall Pines is 10 years old this year! In an effort to



*Susan Buchanan*

celebrate our growth as an organization, highlight our updated mission and move us into the future, the communications committee conducted a re-branding session last June. This lengthy session was facilitated by Carl Templer during which participants experienced a lot of soul searching, passionate moments and laughter, and after only 3 hours consensus was found on the new brand statement for Tall Pines "Saving Land. For Tomorrow. One Acre at a Time." The next challenge was to visually represent our new brand statement as an updated logo for Tall Pines. To undertake this creative task, we turned to our very talented graphic designer, Cathy Lauby. Knowing that we wanted to preserve the well established identity of Tall Pines, Cathy blended the pine trees of the existing logo together with new elements illustrating the environment that depicts TPCs updated mission—the sun and the new branding statement. The addition of the statement "Saving Land. For Tomorrow. One Acre at a Time." Cathy said, "creates distance while representing rows of fields and farmland as well as giving the logo a base and ground that completes our atmosphere of natural areas and open spaces." Out of 6 different versions created by Cathy, the committee quickly came to consensus on the one you see here today. This new logo will phase into all our print materials. We hope you like it as much as we do! Thank you to the committee, Carl and Cathy for all your hard work. ▲

*Susan Buchanan*  
Executive Director

# family day

Brought to you by Tall Pines Conservancy in Partnership with Quad/Graphics

**Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> • 11am–3pm**  
Join us for a Day of Family Fun Celebrating Land Conservancy

*where?*

Camp/Quad • 6886 County Road Q, Hartford, WI 53027  
Located on Hwy Q, just East of Intersection Hwy 83 & Hwy Q in Washington County

*on going fun!*

Self-Guided Nature Hikes, Mountain Men Re-Enactments,  
Archery, Fishing, Hayrides, Art in a Suitcase & Crafts for Kids

Native Plants & Seeds Sale Benefiting Tall Pines Conservancy  
Barbeque Lunch & Beverages Available for \$5 Per Person  
**Join Us for Our 2009 Annual Meeting in the Clubhouse at 10am**

The event is free & parking is limited. Pre-registration is required.  
Please RSVP to 262-369-0500 or info@tallpinesconservancy.org by June 6th.

# YES, I WANT TO HELP PROTECT OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

New Member    Renewing Member    Address Change    Gift Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Please enroll me as a member at the following level:**

- \$15 Advocate    \$50 Sentry (Individual)    \$75 Guardian (Family)  
 \$250 Supporter    \$500 Protector    \$1000 and above Stewardship Society  
 \$\_\_\_\_\_ as a gift to the Capital Fund

*Gifts are tax deductible!*

**Memorials & Honorariums:**

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

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**Payment Options:**    Check    Mastercard    Visa

Print Name (as it appears on credit card) \_\_\_\_\_

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Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- Add my name to the list of volunteers  
 Please send me info about bequests and other planned giving options

**Total Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you prefer, we except credit card information over the phone at 262-369-0500

**Please make checks payable to:** Tall Pines Conservancy • P.O. Box 65 • Nashotah, WI 53058

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We have many new exciting projects always in need of extra hands and help. Even if you can only spare a little time, **WE NEED YOU!** If you love the outdoors... have fun while working toward protecting open space, farmland, lakes and streams. Or serve on one of our committees. Please give us a call at 262-369-0500 or visit [www.tallpinesconservancy.org](http://www.tallpinesconservancy.org).



*"On the Harris Easement" Photo by George Van Veghel, Tall Pines Volunteer*

Visit & Join Us! [WWW.TALLPINESCONSERVANCY.ORG](http://WWW.TALLPINESCONSERVANCY.ORG)

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