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Protecting the Lower Narrows

SHARLOTTE COLLER knew she would be moving back to the Baraboo area once she retired from her work as a Foreign Service Nurse Practitioner with the U.S. State Department. In 1976, with interest rates not keeping pace with inflation, she asked her mother to find 40 acres of vacant land for her to invest in. Although the piece her mother found was 242 acres and a bit of a financial stretch, Sharlotte decided to purchase it and live on a tight budget. She first saw the property when she visited home between assignments in Laos and Brazil and was very pleased. As she's learned about the history of the property she's even more captivated by it. The property was a government grant of land to a Civil War veteran. On a sloping hill above the wetlands area along the Baraboo River, local histories say a Native American rendezvous site was located and elsewhere an Indian trail used to go over the bluff to a place called Decorah. Along the

Baraboo River is a carriage road once used to travel between Baraboo and Portage. Several small stone bridges on this road helped the traveler traverse waterways leading into the river.

Since that 1976 purchase, Sharlotte has added two more adjacent parcels "to keep the place together"—one with the house where she and her husband Ron live and another which anyone who has driven on the Lower Narrows section of Highway 33, four miles east of Baraboo knows and loves. Once she retired, moved onto her property, and saw the newly expanded quarry nearby, she decided to purchase the second piece to assure that its bluffs, part of the eastern gateway to the Baraboo Valley, did not become another quarry. I've driven by the exposed bluffs on this part of Sharlotte's property for nearly 20 years and still have a rise in pulse at the sight of them every time I go by.

Continued next page

Baraboo Range
Preservation Association
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Narrows...

Having the privilege of standing on them with Charlotte and Ken Lange—and looking out at the Baraboo Valley and the Fairfield Marsh was even more moving.

Charlotte deeply believes that “we don’t own the land; we only have the privilege of taking care of it during our lifetime.” Her goal is to “leave it better than I found it.”

With the help of FACT, Farming and Conservation Together, Sharlotte has begun restoring a wetland, an upland prairie, and the bluff bedrock glade/dry prairie. FACT is an organization of local farmers and conservation professionals working “to enhance and restore natural landscapes while ensuring that farmers and other residents retain their property rights and economic ability to stay on the land.”

Sharlotte is also committed to the continued use of portions of her land for agriculture and forestry. This way, future owners will be able to generate some income to help pay taxes and continue the restoration work Sharlotte has begun.

Sharlotte’s conservation easement with the

Baraboo Range Preservation Association will assure that her stewardship commitment is carried on into the future. BRPA will be able to complete this easement and protect this outstanding property thanks to Sharlotte’s donation, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Stewardship Fund, another very generous donation from the Schmitz family, and a possible grant from FACT.

BRPA still needs to raise an additional \$50,000 to complete the easement and provide for monitoring. Your contribution will help ensure lasting protection to a superb scenic and ecological treasure.

— David Wernecke



How can you help?

Become a member

Join with the hundreds of individuals and families that support the Baraboo Range Preservation Association’s efforts to protect and care for the Baraboo Range and surrounding area. Your annual membership donation assures that our organization continues to build appreciation of the Range through educational offerings and work with other conservation groups to leverage public and private dollars for land protection.

Protect your land

Join other landowners who have provided long term protection for their land through the donation or discounted sale of a conservation easement. These landowners have assured the future care of their land while benefiting from income tax savings and estate planning advantages.

Support special projects

Your donations make protecting specific lands possible. As highlighted in this newsletter, Weidman Park, Mike Mossman and Lisa Hartman’s property and Sharlotte Collier’s property

are ecologically diverse and beautiful areas. Your support of efforts to protect these and other properties leaves a legacy for all to benefit from.

Donate to the stewardship endowment or acquisition fund

Your donation to the stewardship endowment fund helps assure the current and future stewardship of conservation easement lands. The acquisition fund will help Baraboo Range Preservation Association purchase easements on significant areas in the Baraboo Range.

Volunteer

Volunteers make Baraboo Range Preservation Association what it is. From work in land protection activities such as exotic plant control and easement monitoring to ongoing educational activities for adults and children to service on the board, volunteers are key to Baraboo Range Preservation Association’s successes. Contact David at 608-355-7512 or david@baraboorange.org to learn more.

President's Message

By John Taapken

THE BARABOO RANGE has come back to life and the very successful Cabin Fever lecture series is a good guide as we lace up our hiking boots and get outside.

All of who make Sauk County our home know the importance this area of southwestern Wisconsin has been for conservation. John Muir hiked out from the marshes north of Portage, Aldo Leopold settled in the Sand County shoals and Alexander Wetmore grew up in North Freedom and became the Smithsonian Institute's leading ornithologist; also, we cannot forget Ron Sauey and George Archibald and the founding of their dream of international crane conservation right here in our backyard. Indeed, our natural world has inspired some of the greatest conservation thinkers. With the inspiration of our counties' rich conservation histories, we, the board of the BRPA, encourage each of our members and friends to get out and hike and learn of our diverse natural history. It is vastly important to protect our natural history, but perhaps it is equally paramount to enjoy the land and rekindle our commitment to protect and preserve. Aldo Leopold and many others teach us that, to get out into the world and see it again as though for the first time.

A couple of months ago Donna and I returned to Puerto Rico after a 25 year absence to rekindle an old and precious friendship with my old bird watching comrade and friend in trouble making, Jose Colon. Among other things we were able to share, after our long separation, was our involvement in conservation and our interest in conservation easements. Jose is involved in an organization in a mountainous region of Puerto Rico near his town of Ciales called Citizens of the Karst. He is working hard to preserve habitat through the practice of setting aside critical space and educating folks about the value of doing so. In addition to enjoying finding an old friend well and doing good work, I was reminded that good things are happening. People are working hard on behalf of our ecological heritage all over the place; we are part of a much larger group as we fight the good fight. It heartened me and I hope it does you too.

On May 7 some BRPA folks went on a frog hike with Mike, Lisa and our intrepid frog hunter, Angus. The night we were out listening and looking for frogs the weather was rainy and cold and the frogs were mostly quiet. We did hear Spring Peepers and American Toads, and Angus was able to catch and release a pickerel frog. Now, a few days later on a warm night

in the bluffs, the calls of Wisconsin frogs ring loudly from woods to wetland and pond. It is a chorus more fine than a night on Broadway. The descriptions of the calls of some of our local residents will help you tune your ear to their particular contribution to the nighttime chorus. Listen up. And enjoy.



Calls of Wisconsin Frogs

American Toad: high-pitched, long trill up to 30 seconds; each toad slightly different pitch that blends into a harmonious chorus

Blanchard's Cricket Frog: subtle, cricket-like; sounds like striking two steely marbles together

Bull Frog: low, deep bull horn; sounds like someone saying 'jug-o-rum' in a very low voice

Chorus Frog: musical, high pitch; like finger nails over a high quality, fine-toothed comb; lacks carrying power

Cope's Gray Tree Frog: shorter, faster and harsher than Eastern Gray Tree Frog

Eastern Gray Tree Frog: loud, resonant trill; slower, longer and more melodic than Cope's Gray Tree Frog

Green Frog: like twang of loose banjo string; single note

Leopard Frog: deep rattling uneven snore; like thumb against a tight balloon, with interspersed chuckling noise

Mink Frog: like horse hooves over cobblestones (found only in northern Wisconsin)

Pickerel Frog: soft snore; more regular but less carrying power than leopard frog

Spring Peeper: ascending peep; chorus from a distance sounds like jingling of sleigh bells; strong carrying power

Wood Frog: hoarse, low quacking; croaking with little carrying power.

Mossman/Hartman Project

LIKE MANY who choose to protect their land with conservation easements, Mike Mossman and Lisa Hartman wished to assure that their labors at restoration of the old farm and bluff would continue into the future. Their efforts have recovered a spectacular bluff prairie—an uncommon and declining plant community in the Baraboo Range and the upper Midwest.

After cutting out red cedars and other invasive trees and shrubs on the bluff and exposing even older bur oak to sunlight, Mike, Lisa, and friends use prescribed burns on the bluff (much to the nervous amusement of the residents of nearby Leland) to remove undergrowth and free up the native species that had been holding on for 150 years since fire was suppressed by white settlers. Since they began burning the bluff, the dry prairie has flourished.

Mike and Lisa's land seems perfect for them—diverse in natural communities: floodplain, marsh, oak woodland, savannah, and dry bluff prairie. Thanks to their dedicated restoration efforts and enthusiastic observation, they've come to know the range of life that depends on their property.

Since purchasing the property in 1996, Mike

and Lisa have devoted much sweat, blood and money to restoring their place to the native communities that were characteristic of the area before white settlement. Their efforts confirm what many in the conservation field have come to know—that to steward native landscapes takes a plan and effort. Mike and Lisa exemplify this.

Baraboo Range Preservation Association is working with Mike and Lisa to forever protect this fine property with a conservation easement. With a grant from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), an anticipated grant from the Wisconsin Stewardship Program and support from you and other members we will make this transaction possible. We still need \$35,000 to complete this easement.

Monitoring and enforcing easement terms in perpetuity takes financial resources and that's where you, our members, fill a vital role. Without this vital financial component, protection of special properties like Mike and Lisa's would not be possible. Please consider a donation to our stewardship endowment to help ensure permanent protection of this unique property.



Cabin Fever Lecture Series

OUR FIRST Cabin Fever Lecture Series was well received by members and others—over 350 people ventured out of their domestic, winter comfort to hear speakers on a variety of issues including biblical proscriptions to care for nature, the geologic origin of the Baraboo Hills and the current and likely future effects of climate change on Wisconsin.

Volunteers who helped make the lecture series possible were the speakers (Cal DeWitt, Mike Mossman, Madeline Gotkowitz, George Kraft, John Magnuson, Robert Dott, and John Attig), board members (Ron & Earlene Persche, John Taapken, John Exo, Wayne Maffei, and Jane Stevens), members (Will Clark, David Ogren, Linda Bormann, Nancy Braker, Judy Spring, Ken Lange, Joe VanBerkel) and others including Rob Nelson and the Sauk County Extension office.

Finally, thanks to members of the Baraboo Range Preservation Association whose donations made it possible to host the lecture series and increase audi-

ence member's appreciation and understanding of the Baraboo Hills – their origins, life, issues, and future.

We've already received topic suggestions for next year's lecture series. If there are subjects you'd like to hear a speaker address, please let us know. If you'd be interested in helping set up next year's lecture series, let us know too. New ideas, new faces, and extra hands will make next year's lecture series even more successful than this year's.

BRPA staff experimented with video and audio recording equipment to provide videos to those who were unable to attend. A video of the first lecture, Cal DeWitt's "On the Care of Creation," is currently being circulated. Other videos and DVD's of the lectures are not yet available. Please contact David at david@baraboorange.org or 608-355-7512 if you are interested in viewing or listening to the lectures in the future.

Weidman Park protected and expanded!

LET'S GIVE our thanks and appreciation to the people who responded to Baraboo Range Preservation Association's call to protect and expand Weidman Park near Rock Springs. Over the last several months, BRPA – led by Harley Vodak, has asked individuals to help purchase a five acre tract next to Weidman Park. This parcel was widely recognized as important to the scenic and ecological integrity of the existing Village nature park. Had BRPA not purchased this land, the eastern entrance to Weidman Park would have been visually degraded. A residence in this location would have also degraded the Park as habitat and nesting area for migrating warblers, Great Blue Heron, and the many other plants and animals that depend on this land.

The parcel will be protected by a conservation easement held by BRPA and then will be given to the Village of Rock Springs for addition to Weidman Park.

The following people are to be thanked for making this purchase possible: Harley and Nancy Vodak, Nancy Lange, Richard Knight, Charlotte Coller, Ron Greenwood, Ken Lange, Carol Sorg, Bob & Becky Penzkover, Nina Bradley, Karen & Bruce Duckworth, Bill Schuette, Mark & Paula Lundell, Mimi Wuest & Friends, Eric & Mary Hamburg, Jane Stevens,

Tom O'Brien and Tom Gavin of First Weber Realty, Richard Blakeslee, Dorothy Coens, Dottie Elfers, Win Byers, donations from numerous people at this year's Earth Day, a very generous anonymous donor, and the other volunteers and board members who made this purchase happen. Finally, Harold Kruse, Mike Mossman, Harley Vodak and Jim Froelich deserve much credit for keeping our "eyes on the prize."

\$5,000 is still needed to complete the purchase, pay for transaction costs, and provide for monitoring of the property into the future. Please contact BRPA's office to make a contribution to this special project; (608) 355-7512.



Thank You!

BARABOO RANGE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION'S ability to protect the land is only as strong as its membership base.

A sincere *thank you* to the following individu-

Renewing Members

Nancy Appleyard
Judy Ashford
Mark & Jennell Ballering
Patricia Becker
Nancy & Steve Braker
Daniel & Marjean Breunig
Timothy Brockish
Patrick Brophy
Karl & Melanie Burgi
Marsha Cannon
Will & Bonnie Clark
Clark Forestry
Robert & Jean Dent
Nancy Jo Dillman
Robert Donner
Dorothy Douglas
Jane Eiseley
John & Karin Exo
Joan Fordham
Lyle & Marjorie Getschman
Dan & Margaret Gitter
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Ken Lange
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Ralph & Cathy Middlecamp
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Paul Pingrey & Karen Atz
Richard Rehm
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Karen Samelson
Phoebe & Franz Samelson
Allan & Nancy Schmid
Ruth & Norb Schmitz
Rebecca Schroeder
Esther Seiberling
Jim Severance
Roger & Cynthia Shanks
Jane Adele Spear

als and businesses for their membership renewal and response to appeals over the last six months.

Dave Statz
Aileen Steenberg
Jill Ellenwood & Steve Drexler
Jane & David Stevens
Judith Stoeckman
John & Donna Taapken
Robert & Lois Theis
Betty Thiessen
Harley & Nancy Vodak
Scott Weber & Muffy Barrett
David Wernecke
Gary Werner
M Jane & John Whitney
Timothy Wolff
Helen Ziegler
Kathy Zowin
Scott Zupanc

Susan & Henry Eichhorn
Deb Frosch & Emily Steel
Gerald & Signe Emmerich
Kaye Exo
Shari Exo
Harold Fischer
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Eileen & Donald Gattshall
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Charles & Patricia Kovel
David & Hilda Kuter
Willi Lehner
Rick Livingston
Frederick Madison
Wayne Maffei
John Magdars
John & Norma Magnuson
Ruth & Paul Meyer
Scott Exo & Margy Robinson
Linda & Warren Mohar

New Members

Joe Anderson
Jim & Barb Barnard
Thomas Bernthal
M Don Betts
Gordie & Christine Blum
Michael Brophy
David Chickering
Kathryn Clark
Sherren Clark
Terri Colamatteo
William Cronon
Alison Dalrymple
James & Marsha Davis
John Devereux
Dan Doeppers

MISSION

The Baraboo Range Preservation Association is a land trust which works to preserve and protect the qualities and culture of the Baraboo Range through promotion of ecologically responsible land use.

We achieve our mission through collaboration with groups having similar goals, community education, and land trust projects.

Barbara Morford
 Barbara Naidl
 Katherine & Dale Nordeen
 Joan Nugent
 Kevin & Carol Olson
 Thomas Portle
 Louise Rich
 Janet Scalpone
 Linda Schuler
 Shirley Seireg
 Chuck & Connie Smalley
 Barb & Mike Snyder
 Louis Solomon
 Jennifer & Bruce Stewart
 Chuck Sulik
 Shirley Tollaksen
 Robert Troller
 Robert & Vi Tully
 Arnold Utzinger
 Michael Vahldieck
 Mary Willson
 Steve Willson
 Bruce & Virginia Woods
 John & Tonia Young

Donations

Judy Ashford
 Anonymous (4)
 Richard Blakeslee
 Nina Bradley
 Daniel & Marjean Breunig
 Patrick Brophy
 Winthrop & Sandra Byers
 Will & Bonnie Clark
 Dorothy Coens
 Charlotte Coller
 Robert Dewel
 Nancy Jo Dillman
 Robert Donner
 Dorothy Douglas
 Karen & Bruce Duckworth
 Lyle & Marjorie
 Getschman
 Dan & Margaret Gitter
 Betty Good
 Ronald Greenwood
 Susan Gruber
 Eric & Mary Hamburg
 Ernie & Diane Hanson
 Bryant Hazard
 Mark Herritz
 Luana Jaraczek
 Ed Jedry
 Patricia Jens
 Richard Knight
 Nancy Kruse
 Bruce Newton & Judy
 Sperling Newton
 Dorothy Klinefelter

Ken Lange
 Mark & Paula Lundell
 Paul & Nichelle Martin
 Virginia Metcalf
 Keri Olson
 Bob & Becky Penzkover
 Ron & Earlene Persche
 Joan Redmann
 Rebecca Schroeder
 Carol Sorg
 Dave Statz
 Roman Statz
 Helen Salutos
 Wilmar Sprecher
 Jane Stevens
 Harley & Nancy Vodak
 Donald Vorpahl
 Gary Werner
 Mimi Wuest & Friends
 Mary Yeakel
*and all those who donated
 cash at Earth Day &
 the Cabin Fever Lectures*

In Kind Donations

Aldo Leopold Foundation
 Staff of Baraboo Hills
 Office of TNC
 Winthrop Byers
 Cabin Fever Speakers
 Mark Carlson
 Will Clark
 Dottie Elfers
 Jim Froelich
 Gathering Waters
 Conservancy
 Harold Kruse
 Jerome Mercer
 Mike Mossman
 Tom O'Brien & Tom
 Gavin of First Weber Realty
 David Ogren
 Bart Olson
 Laurence Phelps
 Sauk County
 Historical Society
 Mark Tully
 University of Wisconsin-
 Extension –
 Sauk County
 William Wenzel
 Wisconsin Department of
 Natural Resources staff
*And many other individuals
 and organizations who
 offered their advice and help!*

Wish List

- Copy & Printer Paper
- Digital Camera
- Tripod
- Black & White 35MM Film
- 17" color monitor
- Thank You Cards
- Blank greeting cards
- Postage stamps

Hikes coming up:

On **July 24th at 9am**, is a chance to hike a section of the **Ice Age Trail** with Shirley Tollaksen, a volunteer with the local Ice Age Trail Chapter.

October 3rd at Noon, is a mushroom identification hike at **Devil's Lake State Park** with Laurel Redmond of Red Sage Health.

Please see your hike schedules for details and directions.

Call David at 608-355-7512 or email at david@baraboorange.org if you have questions or need directions.





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Become a member of Baraboo Range Preservation Association

- I am renewing my membership. This is a new BRPA membership.
 Individual \$25 Family \$35 Supporting \$100 Sustaining \$500 Patron \$1,000

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Membership Total \$ _____

I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to support:

- Mossman/Hartman Project Coller Easement Weidman Park Expansion
 Acquisition Fund Stewardship Endowment Other _____
 Please contact me about an easement.

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please return to: **Baraboo Range Preservation Association**
P.O. Box 205
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Baraboo, WI 53913
