



Audubon Log

*Bimonthly Newsletter of the
Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society*

November - December 1997

Preserving A Parkway

*Efforts of the Baird Creek Parkway
Preservation Foundation*

*Wednesday, November 12 6:45 p.m.
Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary*

"What's going to become of Baird Creek Heights in Green Bay?" Is it destined for development or can it be saved? Well, the Baird Creek Parkway Preservation Foundation has been formed to prevent one of the most pristine pieces of forest in Northeastern Wisconsin from ending up as a housing development and a windfall for a developer.

Charlie Frisk, past NEW Audubon president and member of the Preservation Foundation, will share his insights into the situation.

Baird Creek Heights is a 34-acre section containing majestic oaks, maples and hemlock. Although this land had been on the city map for years as an intended addition to the park system, a developer purchased it and has been putting pressure on the Green Bay mayor and City Council to rezone it to allow development.

The foundation has made an agreement with Green Bay Mayor Paul Jadin, that if it can raise \$200,000 toward the purchase cost, the city will purchase the entire section.

A bone of contention is how much the city should pay the developer. The developer purchased the property for about \$150,000. The city has had a value assessment done on the land, which put its present value at about \$450,000. You would think that a 200 percent increase in value would satisfy even the greediest investor, but the developer is arguing that the city should pay a million dollars!

Charlie will discuss how well the foundation is doing in reaching its \$200,000 goal and bring us up-to-date on the outlook for this land preservation effort. *See inside for ways you can help!*

Annual Slide Show

*Members Share Their Snapshots of
Birds and Nature*

*Wednesday, December 10 6:45 p.m.
Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary*

You may call it a "holiday tradition" of NEW Audubon. Each and every December, we get together and share with fellow members our snapshots and stories of vacations, weekend camping trips, or simple an early morning walk. It is a fitting event for a cold December evening - one that will warm you up on the inside!

Members can share as few as one slide or as many as a dozen or so, depending on the number of participants. Each person narrates his or her snapshots for the audience. The variety is what makes this event fun. People have remarked afterward that they were surprised at the interest shown in what they considered a humble effort. We all enjoy each other's view of the world.

There is time after all the slides have been discussed to mingle and look up the person who had certain slides that piqued a common interest.

After the show, we will enjoy a little more "holiday" celebrating with cookies and other fine desserts - it is also wonderful show of refreshments.



The Public Is Invited To Attend

Here are two ways you can help support the Baird Creek Parkway Preservation Foundation

You can make a pledge toward the purchase.

All money donated for the purchase is tax deductible.
The agreement with the city is that if it does not purchase
the entire property, all pledges must be returned.

**You can become a member of the
foundation for \$10.**



BAIRD CREEK PARKWAY
Preservation Foundation

Pledge Card

I/we would like to help the Baird Creek Parkway Preservation Foundation to acquire the parcel of land located in the Baird Creek Parkway, by supporting their fundraising campaign.

- I/We enclose a cash gift of \$ _____
 I/We pledge a total gift of \$ _____

Payment Options:

_____ October 1, 1997
_____ December 15, 1997
_____ March 15, 1998
_____ June 15, 1998

Name: _____

Address: _____

Signature _____

** Gifts are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

Please make checks payable to:

City of Green Bay "Baird Creek Trust Fund"
c/o Jim Blumreich-City Finance Director
100 N. Jefferson St.
Green Bay, WI 54301

** For alternative payment options or for more information contact:

Paul Abrahams - B.C.P.P.F. Fundraising Chair
@ 465-3693

Thank you for your support!



BAIRD CREEK PARKWAY
Preservation Foundation

Membership Card

The Baird Creek Parkway Preservation Foundation was established to "assist the City of Green Bay in acquiring land in the Baird Creek Parkway and to help enhance the Parkway's value as an ecological, recreational, and educational resource for North-eastern Wisconsin".

Officers:

President	Wes Ebert
Vice-President	Barb Knight
Secretary	Sarah Moreland
Treasurer	Patty Ripp

Membership fee Adults \$10.00 Students \$5.00

Please make check payable to:

Baird Creek Parkway Preservation Foundation

c/o Patty Ripp - Treasurer
2717 Old Coach Road
Green Bay WI. 54302

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Amt. enclosed \$ _____ Check Cash

New Tax Reform Encourages Land Conservation

Several important provisions of this summer's massive Taxpayer Relief Act signed by President Clinton encourages land conservation efforts.

▲ **Estate taxes:** The law gradually raises the estate tax exemption from the current \$600,000 to \$1 million by 2006. As a special measure to keep more family farms intact, the law exempts from estate taxes the first \$1.3 million of the value of a family-owned business or farm beginning next year.

▲ **Easements:** In addition to raising the estate tax exemption, the new law allows up to 40% of the value of land subject to a conservation easement to be exempted from estate taxes if the land is within 25 miles of a metropolitan area, national park, or wilderness area, or within 10 miles of an urban national forest. The exclusion is subject to several additional requirements, and is capped at \$100,000 next year, but rises in increments to \$500,000 by the year 2002. Section 508 of the law also allows heirs to place conservation easements on inherited land after the landowner's death to qualify for the exemption and avoid higher estate taxes.

Another provision of the new law permits tax-deductible conservation easements on land where

mineral and surface rights are separately owned, as long as the likelihood of surface extraction is negligible, a change that could boost land conservation in the Rockies.

▲ **Capital gains:** The tax law also cuts the top capital gains tax rate to 20% from 28%. The rate will drop 2% more in 2006 on assets held five years. While debate continues on whether the cut will encourage or discourage gifts of appreciated assets, researchers at Chapman University in California, say they concluded that changes in personal income and the stock market shaped giving patterns between 1966 and 1993 far more than changes in capital gains rates.

▲ **Deductions and trusts:** Congress also retroactively restored a tax break that allows donors to foundations to deduct the full current market value of appreciated stock, rather than its basis. The tax break had expired May 31. The law also tightened rules regarding charitable remainder trusts to ensure that at least 10% of a trust's assets end up with a charity.

Ideally, it would be nice if land was protected for land sake; however, at this point in the game, every little bit helps.

State Assembly Next Step for Mining Moratorium

This fall, the Mining Moratorium Bill - Assembly Bill 70/Senate Bill 3, - will face another test. The bill to protect the Wolf and Wisconsin Rivers from mining damage passed the state Senate this spring on a very strong 29-3 vote. Now, it's the state Assembly's turn.

The Mining Moratorium Bill will prohibit the opening of a new mine in a sulfide ore body until a similar mine has been operated elsewhere at least 10 years without significant environmental damage. It only

makes sense to delay mining until it can be shown "by example" that Exxon's Wolf River mine will not pollute our rivers, lakes, or drinking water. Write or call your state representative to vote for the Mining Moratorium Bill.

Wisconsin's greatest wealth isn't the copper or zinc Exxon wants to unearth, it is our plentiful supply of clean water.

Where To Write

Here's how to contact state legislators from Northeastern Wisconsin. Let them know how you feel about environmental issues.

Northeastern WI Senators:

Alan Lasee, R-Rockland
Robert Cowles, R-Allouez
Roger Breske, D-Eland
Gary Drzewiecki, R-Pulaski

Where to write:

State Senator (Name)
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Northeastern WI Assembly:

David Hutchison, R-Luxemburg
Frank Lasee, R-Ledgeview
Al Ott, R-Forest Junction
Mark Green, R-Green Bay
William VanderLoop, D-Kaukauna
John Ainsworth, R-Shawano
Lorraine Seratti, R-Spread Eagle
Carol Kelso, R-Green Bay
John Gard, R-Peshtigo
John Ryba, D-Green Bay

Where to write:

State Rep. (Last Name A-L)
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

State Rep. (Last Name M-Z)
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

National Issues Write:

Senator Russ Feingold
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Herb Kohl
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Jay Johnson or
Thomas Petri
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Your voice can only be heard if you speak out.

1997-98 Chapter Leaders

OFFICERS

President	John Jacobs	432-2438
Vice-President	T.B.D.	
Recording Secretary	Marty Gallagher	448-4375 (w)
Corres. Secretary	Gary Fewless	435-5563
Treasurer	Joe Spangler	494-6347

BOARD MEMBERS

	Carl Scholz	743-3417
	Dorothy Summers	465-6729
Membership	Ron Eichhorn	430-9747
Education	Kenn Kiesner	865-4019
Conservation	Charlie Frisk	468-7304
Newsletter	Mary Novotny	498-9663
Publicity	Carl Hujet	497-7954
Calendars & Endowment	Dennis Prusik	499-9689
Historian	Dorothy Delsart	435-8494
Programs & Field Trips	T.B.D.	
Social & Refreshments	Lavonne Galbraith	497-7954
Past President	Carmella Blecha	434-1807
	Charlie Frisk	468-7304

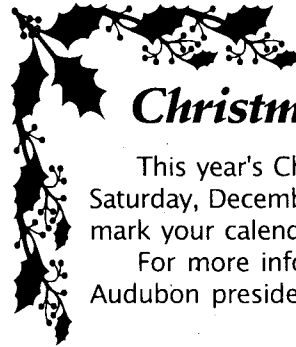
Board meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. the third Tuesday of every month at the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary.

WeatherFriend Calendars Are Available

Yes, the start of another year is upon us and with that comes NEW Audubon's 1998 WeatherFriend Calendars!

With Christmas right around the corner - less than 70 shopping days away - now is the time to think about sharing valuable phenology information with your family, friends, and neighbors! Calendars are \$5.00 each and proceeds benefit NEW Audubon's Endowment Fund.

Give Dennis Prusik a call or attend the November or December general meeting to purchase a calendar . . . or two. Dennis can be reached at 499-9689.



Christmas Bird Count Set

This year's Christmas Bird Count is set for Saturday, December 20. The event runs all day, so mark your calendars if you plan on attending.

For more information, please contact Audubon president, John Jacobs at 432-2438.

N.E.W. Audubon Society

1701 Ninth Street
Green Bay, WI 54304

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Green Bay, WI

We value your membership! If the date on the mailing label has been highlighted, it means your membership in the Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society has lapsed. Please call Dennis Prusik at 499-9689 to reestablish your membership today! It's that easy!

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