



# THE WILLOW TIMES



The Newsletter of the Caledonia Conservancy

Fall 2021

## Love of Horses is a Hallmark of Caledonia *by Libby Cameron*

That love is what started the Caledonia Conservancy after all. Don't they say life is a carousel? And don't look a gift horse in the mouth? When fellow horse lover, Jill Fontaine, showed up at my door with a busted-run-over-sad carousel horse, it was the beginning of an education. She'd been given the broken horse and somehow knew I would put time into resurrecting it. I couldn't resist.

Did you know carousels were a MAJOR form of American entertainment in the early 1900's? Transportation companies set up attractions at the end of their lines to increase ridership. Talented young immigrants carved a veritable stampede of horses and other

menagerie animals to decorate these delights. Some carousels were permanently placed, others were made to travel to smaller towns. Shockingly, over the years, many were heartbreakingly lost to fire. Ears and bodies were then made of metal, and finally fiberglass castings were made from originals. This was the type of horse that made its way to my door.

I scraped off the loose paint layers and reattached his legs with more fiberglass. Now, I'm sanding in the shop and using automotive repair techniques before winter closes in. Hoping for the fun of painting him in the warm studio after this newsletter is out.



Above: Jill Fontaine gifting the carousel horse to Libby.  
Right: Sandy DeWalt's Bogucki medallion.

But if you want REALLY fine original art of horses, look no further than the Caledonia sculpting family of Edwin and Shirley Bogucki. Years ago, we were lucky enough to secure one of his medallion horse head carvings to thank Sandy DeWalt for her tenure as Caledonia Conservancy president. One of the top bronze sculptors of our time, Ed has been a quiet marvel in our area for a lifetime. His work is sought after worldwide, and rightly so. He had a magnificent Arabian stallion he used as a model when I lived next door. I kept hoping my Arab mare would accidentally get out and visit, but that's another story.

Two Bogucki daughters, Kathi and Sheri, are busy in his studio and Facebook rumor has it they're working on a definitive book of their father's work.





*Love of Horses (contd. from p. 1)*

His life size bronze of two dueling thoroughbreds graced the track area at Arlington racecourse, which is now being closed. We've heard that this sculpture may be taken to the Kentucky Horse Park to join his other work displayed there. If you want a moving experience, go see his

life size bronze figures in Kentucky. Secretariat captures the motion that signifies a Bogucki gem. Don't miss his gracefully dramatic 1997 statue of the Arabian stallion Bask++ either. I was lucky enough to privately view his bronze of King Tut in a chariot lion hunt. Ed knew how to make sense of

the archeological tangle the ancient harness had become on the pyramid floor. Even the lion's inside mouth anatomy is correct! The Boguckis make me so proud to share being from Caledonia with an intense love of horses.

♥ Our Deepest Sympathies ♥

Just as this issue went to press there was this heartbreaking post from the Bogucki Studios:  
"In the early hours of the morning, as the cold wind and rain chased the last golden leaves from the trees. . . he slipped away so quietly, we didn't hear him go. . . and our world was suddenly less kind, less gentle, and less beautiful."

Edwin A Bogucki  
7-5-1932 ~ 11-11-2021



*Ed Bogucki's Secretariat statue at the Kentucky Horse Park*



*Libby's non-horsey Tennessee brother Jaimie Cameron being wowed by the Bogucki Bask bronze.*

## CC Event Calendar

### CC Fall Auction:

Nov 26 – Dec 5, 2021

### Spring Casino Night:

Pending

### Bird Walk:

May 7, 2022

pending weather

### Picnic:

TBD pending covid and other factors

### Mane Event:

August 27, 2022

### Trail Clearings:

Second Saturday of each month, from April to October.

Please meet at

King's Corner Parking Area  
4813 Five Mile Rd.  
Starts at 8:45 A.M.



## President's Message

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President over the past two years. As the lead volunteer, I remain grateful and often amazed by the generous support for our Mission from all of you. The pandemic brought forth some unique challenges. Through determination and sacrifice we overcame and prevailed. We're battle tested and well positioned to achieve our future goals.

I have great respect for all of our Board and Committee members. Your passion is evident in our discussions

and debates. It is the respect that we have for one another that allowed us to reach resolution and move forward to achieve our goals.

About two years ago, our Executive Director, Suzi Zierten, had the obligation to begin work with a new President. I appreciate Suzi's patience to help me with all the process and policy that provides structure and equity within our organization. It has been a pleasure to work with you during my tenure.

And finally, a message to our incoming President that will be elected in our November meeting. There will always be differences and challenges. You'll feel the weight of these but, you're not the only draft horse pulling the plow. You are among friends.

Best Regards,  
Matt Johnsrud



*Americorps workers with the baby oaks planted at King's Corner.*

## King's Corner Report 2021 by Wendy McCalvy

Last fall, close to 100 native trees and shrubs were planted around the parking area at King's Corner. They are flourishing after we spent the summer watering. Many even managed to flower. In October, name stakes were placed by each variety along the walking edges of the garden. This natural area was requested and funded by Susan Ehrlich to memorialize her dear friend, Terry Tollaksen, who passed away last year. Terry had such fond childhood memories of riding on King's Corner with the Ehrlichs and volunteered on many CC projects and committees.

Future restoration will be a native prairie pollinator garden next to Hwy 31 to be planted this fall and a boardwalk over the wetland near Five Mile Road. An observation bench on a prairie high point will add to the viewing options. In years to come, these should expand our knowledge and appreciation of the wildflowers and all the varied features on this corner.

CC consultants from the ecologically sensitive landscape and wetland design firm Helianthus prepared a map of how the property would look when

all planting projects are mature. In general, the plan is intended to enhance natural enjoyment of the land for both people and wildlife. No buildings are planned. There are areas for children to explore nature subjects. A guiding map is on the kiosk, and another nearby which is easily viewed on horseback. Of course you can take the map with you as a picture on your phone!

### These Three Things

**Join** the CC and help out on a committee. You'll make new friends.

**Donate** in whatever format you can. Yes, cash is most flexible but your time is precious to us too!

**Enjoy** the CC lands you help preserve.



*Volunteer obstacle judge Marcia Buhler handles a rabbit and wand prop.*





## Americorps Report *by Wendy McCalvy*



*Americorps workers jump on new railroad ties to seat them into their bridge.*

Six Americorps workers, aged 19-23, spent seven days working on Caledonia Conservancy projects in late August until after Labor Day. Americorps is like the peace corps, but teams of young people ages 19-25 work on projects all over the United States. We were fortunate that David Rhodes from Greening Greater Racine organized the team to come to Racine. They stayed in a Habitat for Humanity house for the month they were here.

These kids put in as much hard work as the group two years ago. They destroyed buckthorn—to the extent that large cut plants had to be stuffed

into trees on one trail side so that young native saplings on the other side had sunlight to grow. This will encourage such hardwood saplings of maples, oaks, and hickory to take over the forest of the diseased, dying pines at Gordon Tabor Woods.

A second tree project was installing 19 White Oaks that survived the drought this summer in pots watered by Wendy McCalvy and Fran Martin. Look for cute little chicken wire cages all tied up in orange ribbons at King's Corner along the trails in the wooded area. That's the oaks being protected from deer. The Americorps kids did a great

job planting and protecting them! We hope they help reforest where the ash trees are dying.

Other projects were rebuilding stairs in the Short Road Trailhead, replacing railroad ties in various bridges (Many thanks to the Linstroth family for donating the new ties!!), removing buckthorn with Matt at the Central Walk, widening trail edges at Gordon Woods, and beginning to prepare the field near Hwy 31 back at King's Corner (in preparation for planting a natural prairie this fall). Would we love to have their enthusiasm year-round! In addition, thanks to our volunteers who helped work and supervise during those hot seven days.

The Americorps people worked really well together and never complained, even when the temperatures were in the 90's some days. They were on time, responsible and we were so fortunate to have them help us with the large projects on the land. We also discovered the first endangered cream gentian ever at King's Corner!

Many thanks go to Wendy McCalvy, Barb Hugier, Rachel Trobaugh, Martha Hutsick, Ulla Krause, Matt Johnsrud, Jim Hooten, Vanessa Luther, and Sandy DeWalt for helping plan what needed to be done and supervising the work.

## Stewardship for 2021 *by Sandy DeWalt*

With walking and horse trails on all Conservancy lands, stewardship is always working on something. It seems like whenever a tree falls, it will fall across a trail. The stewardship committee is made up of 15 members and volunteers that do a variety of work. We have people that remove invasive plants, cut up fallen trees, use large equipment to install the large greenspace signs, lay culverts, build bridges or spread wood chips on trails. We also have planted saplings, put in walking steps with railings at the Short Road Trailhead, replaced the damaged

Rohner sign with a new one, mow all of the trails, use a brush hog to cut back brush along the trails, and any other work that requires maintenance.

We are so lucky to have landowners maintain both their trails and Conservancy land. With almost 300 acres of land preserved and many miles of horse trails on private land, we could not do it all without your help. We have held trail cleanings the second Saturday of each month starting in April through October. Many volunteers who use the

trails and like to get outside come to help. At this time we have put in over 1,245 hours of volunteer work on stewardship alone.

Many thanks go to Jessica Orlofske and her husband, Chris Tyrell, for mapping the trails at the Trout Ponds/Prairie, Short Road Trailhead and Ehrlich/Short Right-Of-Way, plus all 3 sections of Tabor Woods. The maps are on our website and also in the kiosks at the trailheads. You can take a picture with your phone so you can follow where you are going.





## School to Nature

The Caledonia Conservancy School To Nature (S2N) program has been interrupted by the COVID-19 virus for almost 2 years. We were hoping that we would be able to start our program up again this fall but for a variety of reasons, most of the schools were not allowing field trips. One big problem the schools faced was not having enough bus drivers to get students to school, let alone field trips.

The Racine Christian School has never relied on busing to get their 4th grade students to the Trout Ponds/Prairie for our program and their teacher, Mrs. Perez, called to ask if we (S2N) would be willing to take her 18 students on an educational hike through the Trout Ponds/Prairie. She would arrange to have parents drive, eliminating the need for busing.

So, on September 28th at 9:30 am, a group of eighteen 4th graders and 4 adults came out to participate in our program at the Trout Ponds/Prairie. The S2N committee had 4 adults to lead the students and two people to take care of our Nature Exhibit. Our S2N volunteer leaders were; Terri Kiriaki, Marty Hunt, Cathy Kortendick, Sandy DeWalt, Barb Hugier and Jill Baranowski.

The day was beautiful and everyone enjoyed the 2 1/2 hour tour/lesson. The students used a microscope to look for microscopic aquatic animals in the pond water and had a hands-on lesson about some of the insects and mammals that inhabit the area at the Nature Exhibit. They also learned about what makes up a prairie, woods, pond and river habitat. The

most important lesson they learned was how important it is for all of us to take care of our environment.

Hopefully, S2N will be back to its normal schedule again in 2022. We look forward to bringing area students out onto the CC lands and teaching them about nature. If any of you would like to be a part of this program, please contact the S2N chair, Jill Baranowski (262-681-2043 or [jcbaranowski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jcbaranowski@sbcglobal.net)).

Jill Baranowski- Chair of School to Nature

Committee Members:  
Sandy DeWalt, Terri Kiriaki, Marty Hunt, Kathy Trentadue & Barb Hugier



### Can You Name This Bush?



The berries look like bittersweet, but are pink and grow on a large bush. They were brought over by Europeans who used the spine for spinning wool into thread.

Answer: European Spindleberry Bush



## Guided Walks on the Land

Members of the stewardship committee offered to take people for walks on some of our properties this year. In September, Dr. Jessica Orlofske took 17 adults and kids out for an evening walk at the Trout Ponds/Prairie. She showed us the singing insects that come out at night. She also hooked up a black light and a screen to attract them. Using echo locators, people heard one bat out looking for insects. An eight-year-old boy found a baby garter snake that he picked up and showed the group. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the walk at night.



Dave Hecht took people out on the Short Road Trailhead and taught them about that area. The Short Road land consists of a trail along the Right of Way that goes into an old growth woods. It is adjacent to the Renak Polak woods, a state forest preserve, owned by UW Parkside where hikers but not horses are allowed. Barb Hugier volunteered for Tabor Woods, but both days it was scheduled, they got rained out.

*Above: Dr. Orlofske uses an echo locator.  
Left: Insects attracted by Dr. Orlofske's black light*

## Chicken in the Woods?

What a great year it's been for mushrooms. These striking yellow mushrooms are said to taste like chicken. Libby will take someone else's word for it though as she has a vivid childhood memory of her sister Julia getting her stomach pumped after taking *Alice In Wonderland* seriously!



## Preservation Progress

We want to thank Anna Hayes and her four siblings for donating their 1/3 of the land on the east side of the Trout Ponds/Prairie off Four Mile Rd. and Hwy 31. The land was given to them by their aunt, Mildred Tepley. Several years ago, the first 1/3 was donated by the Haluska brothers living in California. This means that we now own almost three acres of the 4.4 property. The land is mostly wetland and Root River floodplain and is great habitat for amphibians and other creatures.

We also wrote a Knowles-Nelson DNR grant for 6.93 acres of old growth woods that borders the west side of the Short Road Trailhead woods. We had applied for the grant last year and didn't get it. Marla Wishau revised it this year and submitted it on May 1. At this time, it is in final approval, but we have not heard back if it was approved or not.

Our land trust has received DNR grants in the past for the Gordon

Tabor Woods, McCalvy Tabor Woods, Erlandsson Tabor Woods, and the Short Road Trailhead. At this time, we have preserved 293 acres of land in Caledonia through easements or land that we own.

If you have a piece of land that you want preserved either through a donation, bargain sale or easement, please contact Suzi Zierten at [www.caledoniaconservancy.org](http://www.caledoniaconservancy.org).





## Trail Tips From a Famous Politician *by Libby Cameron*

Those who love the riding trails rely on the good graces of Caledonia landowners. This is a unique system of miles of trails, some owned by the Conservancy, but many trails cross key private lands. Their use is a privilege and not a right. We've lost trail usage to subdividing, which we can't do much about, but rudeness is another blow to our usage that we can guard against.

A friendly greeting and thanks to a landowner as you ride through is a small price to pay. Is there a tree down on a trail? You might offer to come back and help them remove it. Did your horse leave a gift on a driveway? Best hop down and remove it.

The trails are maintained by the private landowners, Conservancy volunteers, and our local Racine County Pony Club. We are fortunate to live in an area where people

enjoy seeing the horses ride through. Following good trail etiquette keeps us a welcome sight. Nearly all landowners require riders to wear a helmet, not bring loose dogs, and to be mindful of where they are allowed to ride.

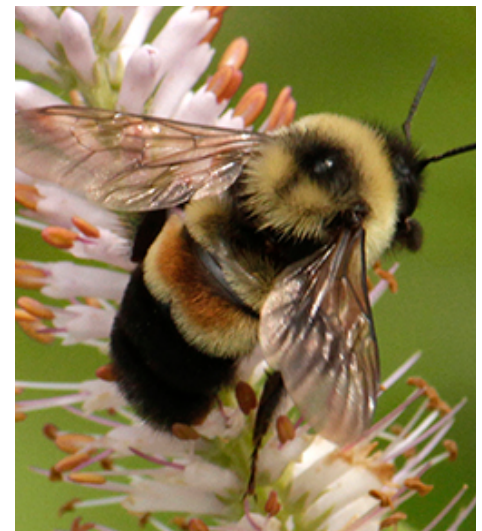
Famous politician Adlai Stevenson once yelled to my older sister "Get your G\*D\* horse off my lawn!" Not all riders grow up learning the ropes of shared trails, so if you're experienced, please share your knowledge with newcomers both young and old alike. It takes a while to learn the trails, but it is rewarding and keeps them open for everyone. Over 70 riders that we know of use the trails on a weekly basis.



## Endangered Bee Sighting Creates a Buzz at Trout Ponds *by Katie Loesl-Dunk and Jessica Orlofske*

Bumblebees are an important native pollinator in Wisconsin due to their ability to work in colder temperatures and perform a special kind of pollination called buzz pollination. Their populations have been declining in recent decades which makes research into their current distribution and resource use paramount. This summer, three University of Wisconsin- Parkside students working with Dr. Jessica Orlofske: Katie Loesl-Dunk (MS Biological Sciences), Alyssa Gregory (MS Biological Sciences), and Maddie Ball (BS Environmental Sciences), sighted the endangered Rusty-patched Bumblebee (RPBB, *Bombus affinis*) at Trout Ponds Prairie.

Katie and her team conducted 46 surveys on Caledonia Conservancy properties since the spring of 2020. The first sighting of a female RPBB worker was on July 21st on a late flowering Wild bergamot plant (*Monarda fistulosa*). Additional RPBB workers were observed on August 17th on Cup plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*) and Virginia mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum virginianum*) in the prairie area. These observations help us to understand the habitat and foraging requirements for this endangered species and other bumble bee species in Southeastern Wisconsin.



### Sharing Berries

Wisconsin has a statute, often referred to as The Berry Picking Law, which is designed to encourage landowners to allow recreational use of their property. Please visit the site below to see a summary of Wisconsin's Recreational Use Statute 895.52.

[www.bikeoneida.com/images/PDF/berrypickerlaw.pdf](http://www.bikeoneida.com/images/PDF/berrypickerlaw.pdf)



## **Business Sponsors & Foundation Donors**

*The Caledonia Conservancy would like to thank these  
businesses and foundations who have donated so far in 2021.  
You are wonderful!*

### **BUSINESSES:**

16 Acres Equine Education Complex  
Brentwood Animal Hospital  
Bristol Vet  
Butter Buds  
Creating Beautiful Smiles  
Culvers on 21st street  
GI Concrete  
Jensen Metals  
Klema Feeds  
Landmark Title  
Maller Peterson  
Midwest Veterinary Dental Services  
Newport Development  
Nicker Nickels  
Nielsen, Madsen, & Barber  
North Shore Animal Hospital  
North Shore Bank  
Payne & Dolan  
Parker Power  
Robert W. Baird & Company  
S C Johnson  
Warren Industries

### **FOUNDATIONS:**

Racine Community Foundation –  
•Ehrlich Family Fund, Susan Smith  
•W. H. Pugh Family Fund, Helen Pugh





## Children Learning

If you're looking for a fun activity with the kids, we have several options at King's Corner. On the east or prairie side, the kids can compare how far they can jump compared to different insects or animals. On the west side or pine area, have a picnic, play hopscotch, checkers, or tic tac toe. Kids can also compare

their height to different flowers, or see how many "hands" tall they are next to our wooden horse. At the shapes board, learn shapes, colors and items of nature. We hope you enjoy the area and will stay on walking trails. If your trail happens to cross a horse trail, please just step to the side, don't run and hide, and

talk with the riders to reassure the horses. Enjoy your family time together while learning about nature. Barb Hugier has worked tirelessly and passionately—in her basement and on site—on these King's Corner features over the past couple of years, and we now have these for children in the area to enjoy. Kudos to Barb!



## Volunteer Thanks & Spanks!

- Michelle Luczak and Lynn Muza, for leading the team that brought Equine Trail Sports to this area resulting in a large donation to the Caledonia Conservancy. The amount of volunteer hours that went into this by people both inside and outside of the CC were too numerous to count but it was well the worth the effort!

- Katherine Scheer for the generous use of her Senne Farm to host the first ever local ETS event. (All that mowing and prepping time to give a beautiful flawless environment made for a successful and fun time!)

- Suzy Zierten, who even though she is the paid executive director, contributes many hours above and beyond the scope of her duties while maintaining an amazingly cheerful and loving demeanor throughout!

- Barb Hugier for conceiving and creating (and finding volunteers to bring them to life) the now

completed unique children's learning opportunities at King's Corner.

- Sandy DeWalt, always contributes great photos and ideas for the newsletter.

- Roy Bohn, whose photo skills are only rivaled by his charm, photographs many of the CC events! See more of his work at <https://brindlebrothersphotography.zenfolio.com/recent.html>

- The unsung heroes who "make it happen" and fly under the radar... you know who you are even if we don't know of every good deed that gets done on the Conservancy's behalf and we are grateful! I'm talking about even the behind-the-scenes conversations, mowing, planting, the goodwill engendered, the perceived slights ignored, the hurt feelings overcome, the being left out, the countless other reasons that are natural in everyday life where you might choose to not

support the cause, but instead, you rise above and do it anyhow! Xoxoxo

- And a giant thank you to the landowners whose constant its-raining-ash-trees maintenance and priceless permission to ride their beautiful trails makes our Conservancy lands a conduit of life and fun instead of isolated islands of preservation.

- OK I know you read this far just to see who got spanked, and it's me if I forgot anyone!! But also because I lost count of Kjell's and my volunteer hours after the many hundred-hour mark. The well-worn path to our door by Amazon for the creative prop supplies at least left a paper trail for our in-kind donations. I'm additionally spanked for not keeping track of the kazillion hours it takes to do the newsletter, be it the writing, photography, editing or mentally balancing all the interests because as Kjell says "The Conservancy belongs to all of us."



## Bulb Fundraiser

Deidre and Jon Vergeer did it again! Their magic Dutch touch with flower bulbs made sure that huge top quality bulbs were delivered to the happy customers of this Conservancy fundraiser. People could choose from 11 different varieties of bulbs specially selected for our climate and soil, as well as a number of deer

resistant bulbs. In addition, they'd chosen bulbs that will bloom in early, mid and late-spring for months and months of beauty. No wonder this was a popular deal! Special thanks to Allison Kurzynski and Nancy Pierce for organizing the sale.



## Mane Event Report *by Sandy DeWalt*

Our 20th Mane Event scavenger hunt equestrian fundraiser was held Aug. 28 at the Neubauer Farm on Short Road. Riders followed a marked trail through woods and hills and crossed Five Mile Road twice. They looked for scavenger hunt items hidden all along the trail. We had them follow flags to highlight four of our main properties: the Ehrlich/Short right of way, the Short Road Trailhead, Tabor Woods, and King's Corner. Whenever riders found a scavenger hunt item, they took a picture of it and when returning to the barn, got one raffle ticket for every item found. They put their tickets in jars for the prizes they hoped to win.

At the barn, we also had a fun obstacle course set up that you could ride

multiple times. Ribbons were given based on how many obstacles you were able to finish in the best time.

The weather was HOT- in the low 90's and we had 22 riders ride the eight mile course. Thirteen riders canceled due to the heat, the ages of their horses and also the rider's ages. Each one donated their entry fee to the CC. Everyone who came enjoyed the day and are hoping to come back next year. Many thanks go out to the Neubauer Family for once again hosting the ride from their farm. Kudos also to Sally Smith who takes care of the farm and us, and all of the volunteers who helped out that day. We could not have done it without all of you.



*A colorful carwash obstacle challenges a brave horse.*



*Two young Mane Event riders Lydia and Dave Klawitter head out on the trail.*



*One small boy and a very large horse! Photo by Skye Johnson.*

## Horses & Trails Wall Calendar Coming

Place your Horses and Trails of Caledonia calendar orders by Monday, November 22, 2021. These beautiful, unique calendars make wonderful gifts for friends and family and best of all, all proceeds go to protect our beautiful trail system!

Please contact Sandy DeWalt [sdewalt@wi.rr.com](mailto:sdewalt@wi.rr.com)



## Neighborhood Rides *by Michelle Luczak*

I have had the pleasure of co-hosting neighborhood trail rides with Wendy McCalvy for 3 seasons now. The purpose of these rides is to share the horse trails with other horse enthusiasts and teach them how to best navigate our beautiful network of trails. We typically get in several rides per month, from May through October, focusing on riding different sections of the trail system. As I'm writing this, we will be capping off our rides with our 2nd annual Halloween ride on 10/31/21 and look forward to another great riding season next year!

*Right: Local Lori Jensen starred in one of the 50 silly circus posters Libby made for the circus obstacle event.*



## Equestrian Committee

The CC Equestrian Committee serves as a liaison with the community dealing specifically with horses and riders. We are a voice to protect and preserve Caledonia trails for the equestrian use of generations to come. Cochairs are Libby Cameron and Michelle Luczak, members are Donna Weinzatl, Lynn Muza, Tracy Larson, and Sue Jensen. Please feel free to contact any one of us with horse related concerns and we'll try to help.

*Right: Michelle Luczak and her trick horse Savannah playing the ringmaster role.*



## How Etree Evolved

The Caledonia Etree is a Facebook page that has over 975 local readers. We think of it as electronic branches connecting the neighborhood with horse and nature information. It was started by Libby Cameron over 30 years ago as an email chain to tell when neighborhood rides were happening. It has evolved into a resource for everything from available barn cats to an instant alert about lost dogs and loose horses. Trail hazards, local ride times, important local zoning meetings, you name it, it helps the community.



## WHEREWUZZIT?



This knocker "Heaven's Gate" is on a curve of the Becker's Triangle trail on Scania Lochiel Farm. Every time we ride past, we think of our Conservancy friend the late Judd Wyant who is laid to rest in the nearby cemetery. Judd was the CC lawyer for many years, from the founding until his retirement. For those first years, he never sent us a bill for all the legal work he did!

Soon Etree will also have a calendar page of local equestrian and other events to help all facets of Caledonia schedule and plan their activities. Just search Caledonia Etree on Facebook and ask to join.

*Left: Libby and her Morgan mare MayMay*





## Obstacle Events *by Michelle Luczak*



*Dave Ewert shows his perfect pedestal circus horse.*



*Libby's goofy trapeze decorations hung above the food table crewed by Misty Ganswindt and son Josh.*



*Sue Jensen holds Jeanne Natrop's mare Beamer while Serafina and Domenica Frenzel sport merry hats.*



*Sandy DeWalt judges Kelsey Cartwright on the pond crossing.*



*Denise and Bob Wettengel were essential volunteers. Here Bob repositions the ball after competitor Diane McPherson's gypsy negotiated the obstacle.*

Our team, consisting of Donna Weinzatl, Lynn Muza, Tracy Larson, Libby Cameron Erlandsson and myself, had the pleasure of hosting two Equine Trail Sports events in Caledonia this year, where all monies raised (over \$4000!!) were donated to the Caledonia Conservancy for equine trail maintenance.

Equine Trail Sports (ETS) is a national

organization that promotes the sport of equine trail riding by providing a variety of events open to all breeds. ETS is one of the fastest growing equestrian disciplines in the US. The events consist of a variety of obstacle challenges that participants can compete in, either by in hand or mounted, or both. Riders/Handlers are able to choose the level for each obstacle depending on what is best

suited for their equine. They and their equine are judged by completion of the obstacle, willingness of the equine and overall quality of the challenge.

We got creative with a "money" theme for the event held at Kathryn Scheer's Senne Farm since she has a business making Nicker Nickels horse treats.

*Obstacle Events continued on p.13 >*





*Computer wiz and score keeper  
Tracy Larson with ribbons.*

We made a money tree you had to circle around and even a money laundering exercise where riders rode through her pond!

Our second event at Libby and Kjell Erlandsson's Scania Lochiel Farm was a silly circus theme to honor their Monet-style bridge, which has a whole side of mosaic circus ponies on it. Kjell built a pedestal that the horses could step up on, many people wore clown noses, pink toy poodles had to walk a tightrope and it was a full day of fun memories. Libby even made 50 hilarious bogus circus posters of local riders, who then generously donated to be able to hide them, er ah take them

home as souvenirs. Christening people as the world's most fearless bareback rider, sexy siren of sin, songbird of Caledonia, Twinkly Toes etc. gave spectators a lot of laughs. One favorite poster showed president "Mustang Matt" brandishing a chainsaw while riding a bucking bronco.

We thank Rusty Stacey for the use of his land in the trail ride portion of the event. ETS, whose motto "ride for fun, ride to learn", makes it so easy to serve as hosts and a great time was had by everyone who attended, whether participants or spectators! Looking forward to hosting two more events next year!

## **The Keland Legacy: A Personal Account of Many Memories** *by Libby Cameron*

A group of five white horses thundered across the landscape, educating and inspiring many of us about carriage driving. The late Nikki Keland brought them to this neighborhood. Her family farm hosted a top-notch driving event with skilled reinsmen negotiating hair-raising obstacles. We neighbors were recruited as helpers, navigators, judges, and obstacle builders. It was a wonderful experience. I still have the Tshirt!

Nikki's team was the subject for many beautiful photos and I did a painting of Tibor Kovacs, her expert Hungarian "whip" competing in a corn field setting. He laughed at my red face when I ran to keep up with them as I tried for the ultimate reference images.

Nikki's sister, Henni, was part of the farm and the driving event too. I remember her big fancy Swedish horse Sven living there. Their sister, Christy, also let me ride her own enormous warmblood when she and her husband brought that impressive equine along on a visit from out west. They had an Arizona ranch and were both expert riders. In fact, he was a bona fide cowboy. We all got asked to leave a

local rib joint when our laughter and discussion of horse wormers got too loud! They sure were fun.

The three sisters are sadly gone now, but those images stay with me, along with the mark of their generosity in letting us all experience their farm. I brought my Arabian and lived in the barn apartment for a fantastic two years when I first came to town. Knowing nothing about Nikki's relationship to the Johnson Wax family, I threatened a strange car in the barn driveway by waving my broom, before I was informed the driver was part of a security detail!

Nikki and I developed a close friendship spanning 40+ years. Her family's great sense of humor, her kindness, and her way with animals were gifts she shared, along with her artistic abilities and encouragement of my own artistic path. Her partner of 50 years, John Krewal, died three months after Nikki. I don't doubt a broken heart had something to do with it. When I visited, we would often talk about the Conservancy and Nikki was always interested in what was going on. Last spring's CC newsletter

was one of the final things we enjoyed together. Knowing her affinity for animals and nature, when her obituary suggested memorials to the Caledonia Conservancy, it was a lovely and apt tribute.



*Photo of the elegant Nikki Keland  
by John Krewal*



## Storing Our Nuts *by Libby Cameron*



I haven't met Susan H., but she is inspirational! She quietly and faithfully gives a monthly donation to the Conservancy. I didn't even know people did that! Zari Kunesh is a young graphic artist, but she gives her time and talent to create this Willow Times newsletter twice a year, so we don't have to spend hard given hundreds of dollars there. Others write a check when the spirit moves and they are able to.

Kjell and I have given a permanent trail easement on our land, as well as given land to the CC in a bargain sale, as have others. There were tax benefits, but most of all, priceless peace of mind in knowing the land is protected. When we married, people sent gifts to start funding an endowment for the Conservancy. There are so many ways to give, and one that no one likes to think about is estate planning. Ewwww I can't even

talk about it, except to say if you're a planner, it's a sweet way to leave a legacy. You could take that step about the future and then happily forget about it.

Just as Michelle Luczak likes picturing her grandchildren riding these same paths, I like the idea of future hooves tromping the trails we've cut. It will happen because many of us worked to make the CC sustainable for future generations. Some employed people are blessed with company programs that will match what they give. We all have our own unique way to make Caledonia and the conservancy land places we love to call home. Changes come and go in our lives but being able to go see that tree where you came upon a squirrel prepping for winter is a wordless comfort. See the little worn scratch marks by the tree hole? Tell that tiny face peeping out that she'll never have to move.

### Drawback or Feedback?

Please tell us if you like the newsletter! At covid, we went electronic to avoid contact and costs. Some people have told us they LOVED the hard copy. If you'd like to donate an extra \$20 to cover expenses following the example of the Wisconsin Horse Council, ask us to put you on our hard copy mailing list next time.

A click will send a monthly amount of your choosing unless you're a big spender and want to give an annual amount.

If you are a business donating, it is a win-win with our public thanks. But make no mistake, everyone's contribution in any form is appreciated!







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## Antiques Road Show Caledonia Style!

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*Please help the Caledonia Conservancy  
by bidding in our online auction!*

From works of Art to a Zoo pass, people love auction items like restaurant or gift certificates, horse-themed baskets/ items, local products or services, homemade or home baked goods – we have something for everyone!

The auction is November 26 - December 5.  
[auctria.events/CaledoniaConservancyFall2021](http://auctria.events/CaledoniaConservancyFall2021)

For more information, please contact:  
Jennifer Kanter  
phone: 414-364-6420  
email: [tyky00@yahoo.com](mailto:tyky00@yahoo.com)

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## Anytime is a Good Time for Cookies

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Do you have your copy of the Caledonia Conservancy Cookie Collection recipe book? Professionally published, this book will add more than 115 delicious and different cookies to your recipe repertoire – all family-favorites submitted by Caledonia Conservancy supporters like you. And we didn't forget our 4-legged friends; there are treat recipes for horses, goats, dogs and even donkeys.

Best of all – the cookies will not only taste good but do good. All proceeds go directly to the Conservancy and will be used to maintain our trails and properties.

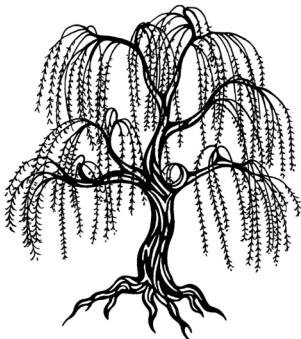
Click [here](#) to order your cookie book for just \$15...free (local) delivery included! Or contact Suzi Zierten at 262-498-4993.





# CALEDONIA CONSERVANCY

Caledonia Conservancy  
PO Box 044714  
Racine, WI 53404-7015  
[www.caledoniaconservancy.org](http://www.caledoniaconservancy.org)



## Thank you- Volunteers & Supporters!

### MISSION:

Building community by connecting people to Caledonia's trails and greenspace.

### VISION:

The Caledonia Conservancy is committed to preserving land for future use. We connect people to nature education, enhancing quality of life through public access to equestrian and recreational trails. We strive to build a sustainable community through conservation, stewardship, education, outreach and partnerships with neighborhoods, schools, businesses and government.

Link to view maps of our properties:

[caledoniaconservancy.org/maps](http://caledoniaconservancy.org/maps)



## Caledonia Conservancy Committee Chairs

<i>Executive</i> Matt Johnsrud	<i>Governance</i> Jill Baranowski	<i>School to Nature</i> Jill Baranowski	<i>Stewardship</i> Sandy DeWalt
<i>Finance</i> Jennifer Kanter	<i>Preservation</i> Greg Berg	<i>Outreach</i>	<i>Holiday Fundraiser</i> Jennifer Kanter

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- Follow us on Instagram
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- Phone 262-498-4993
- Write to the editor, Libby Cameron, at [elcam4@gmail.com](mailto:elcam4@gmail.com)
- Visit our webpage: [www.caledoniaconservancy.org](http://www.caledoniaconservancy.org)

## Addresses for CC Public Access Lands

*McCalvy Tabor Woods &  
Cameron Erlandsson Tabor Woods*  
5131 Tabor Road, Racine, WI 53402

*Gordon Tabor Woods*  
5118 Pine Tree Circle, Racine, WI 53402

*King's Corner (Ebrlich)*  
4813 Five Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402

*Neighborhood Central Walk*  
1934 4 1/2 Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402

*Short Road Trail Head*  
6111 Short Road, Racine, WI 53402

*Trout Ponds/Prairie*  
4819 4 Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402

*Erlich Family Ltd. Partnership*  
4810 Four Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402