



Token Creek Watershed Association's
News From the Watershed
Spring 2004

Strategic Planning leads to Organizational Changes and Increased Activity for TCWA

Last October TCWA's board of directors met for the first of several meetings of brainstorming, discussion and goal setting with the River Alliance's Diana Toledo. Directors funneled ideas and potential activities (including feedback and ideas from TCWA members) through a comprehensive planning process that evaluated the state of the watershed association. What followed was an official plan of action for the coming year, complete with goals and activities and most importantly, working committees to ensure those goals are met. For a full viewing of TCWA's plan of action for 2004 please visit the TCWA website at www.tokencreek.org

TCWA's committees for 2004 include:

The executive committee is charged with fundraising, sponsorship and administrative

goals. For more information about the executive committee, or to make an addition to the monthly board meeting agenda, please contact secretary Mike Kolb at 825-7703.

The membership committee's goals include increasing membership and regular two-way communication with TCWA members and the general public. You can reach committee chair Henry Haugley at 825-9768.

The education committee will strengthen ties with community school systems, provide educational materials to the public and sponsor children's programming. Committee chair Tom Culver can be reached at 837-5320.

The 4th of July committee is responsible for ensuring that this

year's event is a success. Contact Jennie Nuese at 334-8941 for more information.

The Restoration committee will move the prairie restoration project forward, and will keep us up-to-date on the stream restoration project at Token Creek. Committee chair Bruce Stravinski can be reached at 846-9324.

Finally, the goals of **the development committee** are to ensure TCWA's strong voice in the increasing development happening in our watershed. For more information about the development committee please contact Jennie Nuese at 334-8941.

All committees are currently meeting on a regular basis, but need more help. We welcome your feedback and involvement!

Thank You! To those who participated in our member survey last fall. Your feedback was invaluable to our strategic planning process. We appreciated your comments!

News from the Chair

As the TCWA Annual Forum approaches on April 19, I look back on my first year serving as President.

It has been a great year for our organization. We have been through strategic planning, implemented new committees, and renewed our commitment to the resources and people within the watershed.

The Board has decided to take a proactive stand on what happens within the watershed that affects the health of Token Creek. We will vigilantly monitor development and construction, attend planning and town/city meetings and become members of other committees or groups that affect "our watershed". We will make a difference on what impact the growth we know is coming will have on Token Creek. It is our intent to protect the investment of time and money that so many people, municipalities and non-profit groups have invested in the resource.

TCWA has enjoyed a good working relationship with the towns of Windsor, Bristol and Burke, as well as with the City of Sun Prairie. I thank them for working with our group of advocates for Token Creek.

Working with the Town of Windsor Token Creek Conservancy Committee we have started plans for the Culver Springs Prairie. It will be an ambitious several year undertaking.

I am also excited that the DNR has stepped in to replace the Army Corps of Engineers and the actual restoration process will begin soon. I still wish to thank the Army Corp for all of the groundwork and money spent to get the project to where we are at today.

We look forward to sharing our plans with you at the Forum on April 19. Please plan to join us and visit with the members and visiting partner organizations who will have tables set up for your information. Come meet the others who care about Token Creek, socialize and learn more about what we are doing and who we are. Please remember to renew your membership and ask a neighbor or friend to attend. We need your support.

Sincerely,

John B. Hutchinson

"Revitalizing the Token Creek Watershed: Prairie & Creek Restoration"

Mark your calendar for TCWA's Annual meeting and spring forum, to be held on Monday, April 19th. This year's program will center on the revitalization happening in the watershed and in TCWA. Mark Martin, Bureau of Endangered Resources, will present a vision of the Culver Conservancy prairie restoration. Scott Stewart, WDNR, will provide an update on the creek restoration project. We've also invited local groups such as TU, the Big Hill Committee and others to provide information on their own activities in the watershed. TCWA will hold a silent auction to benefit our organization, and we'll kick off our first-ever official membership drive. And as usual, TCWA members will vote on their directors and catch up on activities and committees. This year's spring forum will take place at Bristol Town Hall, located at 7747 CTH N, north of Sun Prairie. Browsing and refreshments will begin at 6:00pm, and the program will begin at 7:00. See you there!

Upcoming Events:

TCWA Annual Mtg & Spring Forum

M, April 19th at Bristol Town Hall
7747 Co. Rd. N, from 6:00-9:00 pm

Wednesday Evening Watershed Walk at Culver Conservancy

W, April 28th at 6:30 pm
Meet at Conservancy Parking Lot

Egre Road Cleanup Sat, May 1st

9:00 am-Meet at the Culver
Conservancy Parking Lot

TCWA Children's Library Programs

DeForest Public Library
June 7th & 10 6-7:30
Sat, June 12th 10 am 'til noon

Development in the Watershed

The city of Sun Prairie recently lifted a moratorium on new development resulting in a flood of applications for new developments. Four of these developments are in the Token Creek watershed:

Stak Investments is developing 39 acres just east of Bird Street and south of Egge Road. A tributary of Token Creek flows through the proposed development.

Windsor Bristol Investments is developing 200 acres of land between Egge Road and the northern edge of Sun Prairie, approximately where Broadway Drive presently dead ends. This is a low-density conservation development designed to minimize run-off and maximize infiltration. A conservation easement and possible trail system is planned for the riparian zone along Token Creek, which forms the western of the proposed development.

The third development is located on the Tuschen Property, which consists of 61 acres at the SW corner of Highway 19 and County C. Storm water will enter the tributary of Token Creek that flows north of and parallel to Highway 19 and enters the creek downstream of the old mill pond dam.

The fourth development in the watershed is called Gehrke's Knoll. It is located north of Highway 19 across from Wyndham Hills. The tributary that carries water from the Tuschen Property will also carry Gehrke's Knoll stormwater, or it will flow north into Token Creek through Wynbrooke.

All of the developers, town, city, and county staff are acutely aware of the presence and importance of the Token Creek Watershed, as well as the fact that the Watershed Association is watching the development process. We are confident the municipalities and developers involved in planning these developments have the hydrological and ecological health of Token Creek in mind. The Token Creek Watershed Association must be vigilant to assure plans are appropriately implemented.

*Interested in Lending a Hand?
We could use your help!*



- Newsletter-writers & editors
- Children's Programming at Public Library
- Education, 4th of July, Membership and Restoration committees
- Persons to attend plan commission meetings, Especially in Sun Prairie

Call Jennie at 608-334-8941 to volunteer

Many thanks for renewing...



Spring Sentinel

Sarah Cook
Kathy Long

Brook Champion

Barb & Ron Hennings

Business/Organization

Southern WI Trout Unlimited

What's happening at Token Creek?

Status Report from Ken Johnson, WDNR

If you've grown impatient with the Corp of Engineer's (COE) and their implementation schedule for the Token Creek Restoration, you're not alone. Last July, after almost a year with little progress or communication from the COE, the project was assigned a new manager who summarily announced that project start-up would be postponed for over a year. Early fall of 2003 we began exploring alternative funding mechanisms for the project. Our conclusion was that while we may have to rely on several different funding sources, there are enough alternative federal and state programs to allow us to begin the project this year without the COE as the lead. Last December and January I appeared before the Town of Windsor Board and suggested that we move forward with a "phased" approach that would begin construction this year. The proposed concept is simple-instead of completing the project in one construction season we would move forward with the project in 4 or 5 phases. The amount of available funds and site conditions will determine how quickly we move through phases. The Town Board accepted the concept and voted that the Token Creek Restoration Project move ahead with this approach with the DNR acting as the lead agency. Further, if COE funding becomes available in the future we would welcome them back into the project as the lead agency.

Currently we are finalizing some of the design details, but we hope to begin re-meandering the channel this year. Keep in mind that our "phases" will expand or contract based upon funding. We are confident that we will be successful with our funding effort but it may take time. The first phase of the project is as follows:

Phase One: Breach of dam and connection to the existing channel.

The dam breach will be established through the old embankment about 200 feet southeast of the current dam. This configuration will require construction of 400 feet of channel- 250 feet below the dam and 150 feet into the reservoir. Phase One excavation will require the removal of about 1100 yards of material. This phase will begin initial de-watering of reservoir and sediment. We also anticipate breaching the dikes that separate Token Creek from the Culver Springs.

For more details and a complete description of Phases 1-5, please visit the TCWA website at www.tokencreek.org.

Wednesday Evening Watershed

Walks

Spend your Wednesday evenings this spring exploring the watershed in which you live! This year TCWA once again joined with the St. Benedict Center in organizing the Wednesday Evening Watershed Walks throughout the Upper Yahara River Watershed. These guided walks take place each Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm from April 21st through June 23rd. The Token Creek Watershed Walk will take place on April 28th at the Culver Conservancy. TCWA member Sarah Cook will lead us through the new self-guided walking tour, and Ken Johnson of WDNR will provide an update on the creek

restoration project. The watershed walks offer an excellent opportunity to experience how truly connected our resources are. Hope to see you there!

For a full schedule of walks visit www.tokencreek.org.



Please Join Us...
*Token Creek Watershed Association's
Spring Forum & Annual Meeting*

Revitalizing the Token Creek Watershed: Prairie and Creek Restoration

**Monday, April 19th
Bristol Town Hall
7747 CTH N
(North of Sun Prairie)**

6:00 pm-Refreshments & Browsing

7:00pm -Program

- **Speakers Mark Martin, Bureau of Endangered Resources**, on the Culver Conservancy Prairie Restoration and **Scott Stewart, WDNR**, on the Stream Restoration Project •
- **Visit with local groups with an interest in the watershed**, including Natural Heritage Land Trust, Madison Audubon Society, Capitol Water Trails, Dane County Parks, Patrick Marsh Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, and the DeForest Area School District's Big Hill Committee
- **Bid for great prizes in our Silent Auction**
-Featuring Binoculars, Framed original artwork, Garden tools & more.

Come see what the Token Creek Watershed Association has been up to!
With newly formed committees, a detailed action plan for the upcoming year and a change of leadership in the Token Creek Restoration Project,

Now is the time to join/renew!

Annual Membership Levels:

- \$10 Student
- \$25 Spring Sentinel
- \$45 Streamkeeper
- \$100 Creek Guardian
- \$250 Watershed Watchdog
- \$500 Corporate Sponsor
- Other

Name

Address

Phone _____ Email _____

- Yes, I would like to receive updates on TCWA activities via email

Comments/Volunteer interests

Please return to: **TCWA PO Box 366 Windsor, WI 53532**

*For more information please contact TCWA Coordinator Jennie Nuese at 608-334-8941

Token  Creek
Watershed Association



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www.tokencreek.org