



COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

www.communityconservation.org

In order to promote global biodiversity and sustainable land use, Community Conservation catalyzes, facilitates and empowers local people to manage and conserve natural resources within the social, cultural and economic context of their communities.

CC Update
Winter 2009
Volume 20, Number 1

Community Conservation Celebrates 20 Years: Thank you for your support!

Community Conservation (CC) is celebrating our 20th year in conservation and this issue celebrates our projects all over the world. In 1984, Dr. Rob Horwich and Dr. Jon Lyon initiated the first project with the Community Baboon Sanctuary (CBS) in Belize. CC was founded in 1989 and has used the CBS as a model project for community-based conservation from Wisconsin to India to Madagascar to Central America and many places in between.

Thank you to all of our donors and partners who have supported these critical conservation efforts. We celebrate our project partners who have sustained these efforts (many now independently) to build community conservation projects worldwide.

WISCONSIN



Kickapoo Community Sanctuary

Community Conservation has launched the Kickapoo Community Sanctuary, a watershed-wide effort to promote good land stewardship and voluntary protection of lands to conserve this wonderful river. CC hopes

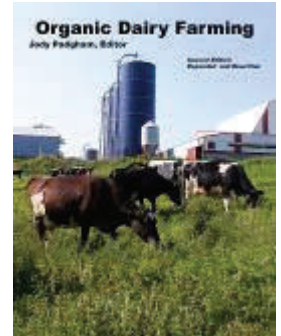
to work with individuals and community organizations using voluntary tools to enhance protection of the Kickapoo watershed. The Sanctuary will promote family farms, sustainable farming, voluntary preservation of natural areas, and economic development through land use planning. CC will be working with local performance artists in coming months on a series of celebrations in the communities along the Kickapoo in 2009.

As a first step, CC has begun the Kickapoo Initiative model project on the lower Kickapoo River below Gays Mills. This area is a rich complex of wetlands and high quality woodlands and prairies intermixed with farms and forest ownerships. We have received \$7500 from the WI DNR River Planning Grant program to work with interested landowners in this area on ecological surveys of their land as well as assess landowner interest in sustainable land management (farming, forestry, etc.) and voluntary protection of their land. This project was sparked by landowners interested in learning more about their lands and what types of farming and forestry management could help sustain and protect this beautiful river.

Organic Farming

In 1990, the Kickapoo Organic Resource Network (KORN) and the Coulee Region Organic Produce Pool (CROPP) worked together on organic farming educational programs for farmers. In 1995, CC helped create the book *Organic Dairy Farming* by Bobby Zirkel and Laura Benson. Three printings of the book were

widely used in the US, Canada, Australia and Russia. In 2006, CC worked with the Midwest Organic Education Association (MOSEA) to produce a newly revised edition of *Organic Dairy Farming* by Jodi Padgham.



This edition is now used by Organic Valley and other organic organizations, educators and farmers as the leading resource for new and continuing organic dairy farmers. The book has been distributed widely in the US and Canada, as well as Australia, New Zealand, Iran and Portugal.

Ornate Box Turtle Conservation

In 1991, CC assisted Bill Moore in initiating a conservation project for the endangered ornate box turtle that inhabits sandy, dry prairie areas of southern Wisconsin. Bob Hay, DNR Herpetologist, has carried on since 1992 to rebuild viable turtle populations in Rock County through management plans with private landowners and translocations of relic populations and hatchlings.

Ferry Bluff Eagle Council

Community Conservation worked with the Ferry Bluff Eagle Council in 1988-1989 to produce a management plan for the area to safeguard the wintering roosts of the American bald eagle. CC also helped

ACT LOCALLY: You, too, can become a community conservationist in your area!

in the development of a tourism and education program which resulted in an annual Eagle Watching Days. This program, sponsored by the Wisconsin DNR and Sauk Prairie Chamber, attracts \$1.3 million in annual tourism income to the area. Thanks to Maggie Jones, Dave Erickson, and Ferry Bluff Eagle Council members for their work protecting eagle roosts and nests and monitoring the population.

Sauk Prairie at Badger

In 1997, CC worked with Laura Olah and the Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger (CSWAB) to form a community coalition to restore Sauk Prairie at the 7,000 acre Badger Army Ammunitions Plant. Initially, the Community Conservation Coalition for Sauk Prairie was formed which later became the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance (SPCA).

Today, a conceptual land use plan divides the entire Badger property between the Ho-Chunk Nation, Dairy Forage Research Center, and the Wisconsin DNR- ensuring no lands are available for industrial development. Instead, proposed land use will be limited to conservation, sustainable agriculture, recreation, and education. We wish the best for CSWAB & SPCA as they continue their important work at Sauk Prairie.

Blue Mounds Project

The Blue Mounds Project, begun by Brian Pruka under the auspices of Community Conservation, provides an "ecological extension" service to landowners in Dane and Iowa counties who wish to encourage biodiversity on their lands. A project ecologist now works with over 130 landowners, encompassing over 13,000 acres, to guide their land management practices with emphasis on restoring native ecosystems.

Valley Stewardship Network

CC worked with the West Fork Sports Club in Avalanche, Wisconsin and Trout Unlimited to create a community stewardship program for the Kickapoo River and its tributaries.

Originally called the Kickapoo Watershed Consortium, the program involved a team of volunteer citizen monitors as well as local teachers and students, who monitor streams for water quality as part of their science classes.

Now called the Valley Stewardship Network (VSN), it received a large grant for the purchase of computer based laboratory devices for water monitoring, GIS mapping systems, and computers to install them on. The equipment was given to participating Kickapoo Valley schools to allow the students to gather and store their water quality data electronically, then input it into the GIS mapping system for analysis and interpretation.

In 2000, with grants from Trout Unlimited, the Stry Foundation and the Wisconsin DNR, the VSN was created to bring together these diverse projects. Now a 501(c)(3) non-profit, the VSN has been a leader in assisting with landuse planning issues (*Kickapoo Conversations*, see photo below), coordinating landowner stew-



VSN's Kickapoo Conversations

ardship education and awareness, broadening the volunteer water quality monitoring throughout the watershed, and launching the new Food and Farm Initiative to address the needs and concerns relating to the food and farm system in SW Wisconsin. Kudos to the vision and hard work of Kathy Fairchild, Gary Thompson, Jessica Luhnig and the VSN Board.

Kickapoo Valley Reserve

In 1992, CC began working with Kickapoo Valley residents to write a

proposal to convert US Army Corps of Engineers land near La Farge, once the site of a proposed dam, into the Kickapoo Valley Reserve (KVR). It was presented to the larger community and area legislators, and in 1996, the federal government authorized the transfer of up to 1,200 acres to the



Kickapoo Valley Reserve Signing

Ho-Chunk Nation and the remaining 7,300 acres to be transferred to the State of Wisconsin (see above photo). The KVR is managed by the Kickapoo Reserve Management Board, made up of local citizens and members of the Ho-Chunk Nation and Executive Director Marcy West. The KVR is a wonderful resource for outdoor recreation and environmental education, especially with the addition of the KVR Visitor Center in 2004. Thank you and best wishes to Marcy and the KVR Board for their continued dedication and leadership.

Museum of the Kickapoo

In 1997, CC created the Museum of the Kickapoo in the historic hydroelectric building along the Kickapoo River in Gays Mills to educate the public about this wonderful river. Thanks to Kathy Fairchild, Rob Horwich, Ellen Brooks, Dave Hackett, Kat Tigerman, Maggie Jones, David Linton and the late Glenn Donovan for helping establish the Museum. A special thanks to Ellen and our Museum volunteers for staffing each spring-autumn.



Museum of the Kickapoo

NORTHEAST INDIA

Assam: Golden Langur Conservation

Our Indian partners have taught us how rich partnerships can be and how powerful community partners



can be to achieve phenomenal conservation goals. Starting with Green Forest

Conservation and Natures Foster in 1998 the Golden Langur Conservation Project has blossomed to directly and indirectly catalyze over a dozen community groups that are actively protecting the forests of western Assam. Rajen Islari of Green Forest Conservation and Sadashib Sen, Arnab Bose, Raju Das and N.K. Dey of Natures Foster have spearheaded the major success of the project. Other leaders and groups who have contributed greatly include Ahmed Firoz of Aaranyak, Babu Dey of Green Heart Nature Club and Mahesh Moshahary of New Horizon. We give many thanks to Shri Kampa Borgoyari of the Bodoland Territorial Council for his help in supporting the Forest Protection Forces (see photo below) as well as Conservator of Forests Basu-



Forest Protection Force in Assam, India

matory and DFOs Ghosh and Patiri of the Assam Forest Department and Dr. Jihosuo Biswas. Along the way the following new community groups have sprung up as active conservationists and forest protectors: the Biodiversity Conservation Society, the Raigajli Eco-tourism and Social Welfare Society arose to work with the others to protect the 200,000 hectares of the Manas Biosphere Reserve and

the Pateswari Golden Langur and Green Conservation Federation made up of 28 villages to protect the Kakoijana Reserve Forest.

In 10 years of community protection the golden langurs of Kakoijana have increased from 100 to over 500 and the forest cover has increase from 5% to 70%. The effectiveness of the whole program has been shown by a fourfold increase of the golden langurs in the Indian range to over 2200 individuals.

MADAGASCAR

We began our Madagascar partnership with Mark Fenn of World Wildlife Fund and the Madagascar Parks Association (ANGAP) in 2007. CC began its project in southwest Madagascar south of Tulear with grants from the Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation focused on the ring-tailed lemur (called maki locally). The Sea World & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund provided support for Horwich and Associate Dr. Jon Lyon to initiate the community conservation training program with a short course held in Tulear with 40 participants. A second workshop was held with Fanamby, a national non-governmental organization.



We are proud to begin work with and support of the newly formed Cultures and Conservation under the guidance of Agathe Tsitampihy and with the research services of Tsibara Mbohoahy who has begun the research study of the ring-tailed lemurs. Thanks also to Barry Ferguson for his help. Congratulations to our new community partners of Ankilbe, Saint Augustin, Ankaronga, Sarandrano, and Ranomay as there are now at least 60 groups in the five regions eager to protect the ring-tailed lemur. We look forward to working with Shawn Peabody and

Reef Doctor who will assist us in working with the marine areas around Tulear.



Community Conservation Training in Madagascar

COSTA RICA

We would like to thank Katie Mann who has been working under the Amigos de los Monos with the community of Ngäbe Indians to protect the red spider monkeys and squirrel monkeys in the Punta Burica area of Costa Rica. She and the local Ngäbe are working with the Ministry of Environment and Energy as local Vigilance Committees of Natural Resources (COVIRENA) to protect their forests and wildlife. At Horwich's initial visit with Katie in 1997, they attended a general meeting held at the school in the Rio Coco area of the Guaymi Indigenous Reserve with 60 adults, mainly Ngäbe with some Costa Rican and foreign landowners, attending. With grants from Primate Conservation, Inc. and Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation, Katie interviewed Ngäbe community members and held community meetings, did field surveys of the primates with local community members and developed an education program for local schools.

BELIZE

Community Baboon Sanctuary

The Community Baboon Sanctuary (CBS) was an innovative solution to the conservation of private lands and has become a conservation model that has spawned a new wave of community conservation projects in Belize and internationally.

The CBS was the first community conservation project initiated by Dr. Rob Horwich and Dr. Jon Lyon who later formed Community Conservation. Created in 1985, the CBS links habitat protection for the endangered black howler monkey (locally called baboon) with community land utilization. Local protection of the black howler monkey (*Alouetta pigra*) and its habitat through encouraging a stewardship ethic in landowners was the main goal of this project. It involves the participation of 7 villages and over 120 landowners. Each land-



Fallet Young leading a tour at CBS

owner has signed a voluntary pledge to abide by a sanctuary generated land management plan.

In addition to the local protection of the howler, the CBS has spread the interest in howler protection country-wide. The CBS donated howlers for a reintroduction into the Cockscomb Basin of Belize and a smaller release in the Cayo District of Belize. The sanctuary has encouraged research on the howlers, the forest, the Central American river turtle, and the bird community.

While initially managed by the Belize Audubon Society (BAS), the CBS has been managed since 1998 by a Women's Conservation Group. The CBS tourism and education programs center around a small natural history museum, Belize's first museum. A new education center was built in 2003. There are also locally owned bed and breakfast tourism and local guide services, and a restaurant built in 2003 is run by the Women's Conservation Group. CC staff continues to advise the CBS project and aid its international partners at Stocton College in Ponoma, New Jersey, who

have redone the museum exhibits and are helping to raise funds for the CBS. CC, as a tax-exempt organization, is managing these funds. Their partners have also created a new website: www.howlermonkeys.org.

Community Co-Managed Park System in Belize

In November of 1998 the United Nations Development Program awarded the Protected Area Conservation Trust (PACT) of Belize a \$750,000, 3-year grant to aid in establishing a community co-managed park system. CC worked closely with PACT in developing the idea of community co-management and in formulating the grant proposal. PACT, an autonomous NGO, is funded through government action, receiving an exit fee paid by all visitors to Belize that is specifically designated for conservation. CC began working with PACT in early 1999 to assist in developing infrastructure and staff for four protected areas: Five Blues National Park, Freshwater National Park, Aguacaliente National Park and the Manatee Special Development Areas.

In Spring, 2004, CC began taking its co-management vision to a new level by showing others how to do the work of empowering communities. Environmental Program Man-



Peace Corps training in Belize

ager of the Peace Corps, Matt Miller, (see picture above) has formalized a program to help conservation-minded Peace Corps Volunteers become support coordinators for communities in Belize. The volunteers help communities work with the government to create and maintain protected areas. Eventually, the Peace Corps Volunteers will be replaced by

village project coordinators. Horwich trained Peace Corps volunteers on CC lessons learned in its first twenty years of projects around the world.

NICARAGUA

Chacocente Conservation

In 1998, Community Conservation was approached by the **Richland Center, Wisconsin-Santa Teresa, Nicaragua Sister City Project** to work on a project in Nicaragua. Horwich accompanied the Wisconsin delegation to Nicaragua to investigate protection of the Rio Escalante Chacocente National Wildlife Refuge. Chacocente is a 4,800 acre area within Santa Teresa's jurisdiction and is one of the most important nesting beaches for the olive ridley turtles as well as one of the more important dry tropical forests in Central America.

CC worked advised the Sister City project on the protection of the turtle beach which has the largest population of nesting Olive Ridley turtles in Nicaragua and a small population of nesting Leatherback turtles. With support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the project produced a bilingual coloring book. Currently, the Sister City Project is helping to provide economic assistance to the four villages within Chacocente and has provided a boat and motor that is used for patrolling the waters near the beach for fishing boats that kill sea turtles.

TRINIDAD

A brief trip to aid Bjorn Sletto in a community mapping project for the Nariva Swamp introduced the villages of Cascadoux and Kernahan to community conservation. Thanks also to Nadra Gyan and the Trinidad Forestry Department and to Dr. Peter Bacon.

MEXICO

Punta Laguna

CC's worked with Punta Laguna and its associates Veronica Long, Laura Callahan and especially Dr.

Laura Vick, who have carried out spider monkey studies there. Through the work of Serapio Cannul in protecting spider monkeys, Pronatura de Yucatan, JoAnne Andrews, Fernando Sastre and others, the protected area has increased and a number of economic programs are being carried out.

Kickapoo-Ayuquila Connection

The idea of linking watersheds in Wisconsin and Mexico began with Kickapoo high School teacher Denise Buckbee, later joined by La Farge teacher Karen Lee and Viroqua teacher Greg Attleson and his wife Sylvia. They were encouraged by the link between the University of Wisconsin and the University of Guadalajara and the Sierra de Manantlan Biosphere Reserve in the state of Jalisco, which is famous for the discovery of the progenitor of wild corn found within it. The program has promoted visits by teachers and students to the Kickapoo Valley and to villages in the Ayuquila watershed including Autlan, El Grullo, El Lemon, Tuxcacuesco and Tomatlan.

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Tree Kangaroo Conservation**

The Tree kangaroo conservation Program (TKCP) has worked in Papua New Guinea since 1996 under the direction of Dr. Lisa Dabek, Director of Conservation and Research at the Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence Rhode Island. The TKCP works in Morobe district on the Huon peninsula in northern Papua New Guinea.

The project focuses on the Matschie's or Huon tree kangaroo (*Dendrolagus matschiei*) which is endemic to the Huon Peninsula.

CC Director, Dr. Rob Horwich's role has been to research the resources within country on the types of conservation efforts tried, and to research the laws relevant to protected areas in Papua New Guinea. He has written a landowners guide to these laws which has been reviewed



Working with clan Landowners in Papua New Guinea

by environmental lawyers in the country. He worked with local teacher Danny Samandingke and the clan landowners (see above picture). Samandingke and Horwich mapped the various clan lands that have been pledged.

RUSSIA

Homeland of the Crane, Zakaznik

Located in the Taldom District of Russia, this area includes a 40,000 hectare wetlands used as a major staging area for Eurasian cranes. CC worked with the Druzhina for Nature Conservation, the International Crane Foundation and the Viroqua Area-Taldom Friendship Association in

developing a management, education and tourism program.

The Druzhina volunteers (see photo below) from Moscow Univer-



sity, who work under the Biodiversity Conservation Center in Moscow, have created museum exhibits for the Klichkov Museum and an area guidebook in Russian. The project has also resulted in help from the Taldom Administration to provide staff for the protected areas. Although CC no longer actively participates in this project, Druzhina volunteers continue some programs in the Taldom and Sergei Posad Districts through an ecological center in Taldom.

Community Conservation Board of Directors	
Dr. Terry Beck	Scott Bernstein
Dr. Robert Horwich	Jack B. Knowles
Dr. Jack Pfitsch	James Poehling
April Sansom	Joe Swanson
Bryon Walker	Cele Wolf
Staff	
Dr. Robert Horwich, Director	
Lamar Janes, Bookkeeper	
Dr. Cynthia Olmstead, Projects Coordinator	
Associates	
Dr. Firoz Ahmed	Chris Augusta
Arnab Bose	Harriet Behar
Robin Brockett	Raju Das
Rajen Islari	Dr. Gail Lash
Dr. Jonathan Lyon	Katie Mann
Dr. Tim Moremond	Jacob Phelps
Sadashib Sen	
Community Conservation, Inc. is a non-profit corporation registered under sec. 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and authorized by Chapter 181 of the Wisconsin Statutes.	



Join us as we work in villages around the world to promote community-based conservation of wildlife and rare habitat.

___ YES, please accept my tax-deductible donation to Community Conservation:

___\$25 ___\$50 ___\$100 ___\$250 ___\$500 ___\$1000 ___ Other

In Honor of/In Memory of _____

Name _____

Please send to:

Address: _____

Community Conservation
50542 One Quiet Lane
Gays Mills, WI 54631

City, State, Zip _____

Email Newsletter? ___ (check)

Email _____

Thank you for your generous support!





Community Conservation
 50542 One Quiet Lane
 Gays Mills, WI 54631
 (608) 735-4717 fax (512) 519-8494
 communityconservation@mwt.net
 www.communityconservation.org



Printed on recycled paper

Non-Profit
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Gays Mills, Wisconsin
 Permit No. 16

Address Service Requested

A Special Thank You

We would like to thank all of the public and private agencies, organizations and foundations who have funded our work over the past two decades.

Two private foundations that have been instrumental in funding our recent community conservation work and research are the Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation and Primate Conservation, Inc. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has provided key funding for many of our current projects including sea turtle conservation in Belize and wildlife conservation in Assam, India.

The projects supported by Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation include multiple grants for Golden Langur conservation in Assam & Mizorum, India; Spider monkey research and conservation in El Salvador; Ring-Tailed Lemur conservation in Madagascar; and primate conservation in Costa Rica.

Primate Conservation, Inc. has also supported primate research and conservation in El Salvador, India, Costa Rica and Madagascar.

A special thank you to all foundations, organizations, and agencies who have helped fund our conservation work over the past twenty years:

- Blooming Prairie Foundation
- *Government of Belize
- Inter-American Foundation
- *ISAR/USAID-Russia
- Jacobsen Conservation Award-WNPRC
- Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation
- Michigan State University
- National Geographic Society
- Organic Farming Research Fund
- Organic Valley
- Paul E. Stry Foundation
- Primate Conservation, Inc.
- Sea World & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund
- Scott Neotropic Fund of Lincoln Park Zoo
- Steve Miller Foundation
- Trout Unlimited
- *UNDP-Belize
- *USAID Biodiversity Grant-Belize
- US Fish & Wildlife Service (Marine Turtle Conservation Fund)
- US Fish & Wildlife Service (Asian Elephant Conservation Fund)
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- Wisconsin Advance Telecommunications Foundation
- Wisconsin DNR River Planning Grant
- Wisconsin Environmental Education Board
- World Wildlife Fund

*not a direct grant but funded our project partners