

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item**

**SUBJECT:** Donation acceptance – Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin's Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Fund

Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin's Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Fund will donate \$28,309.00. This donation will be used to support wildlife habitat restoration and management activities along the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway.

**FOR: December 2013 Board meeting**

**TO BE PRESENTED BY:** Secretary Stepp

**SUMMARY:**

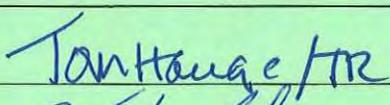
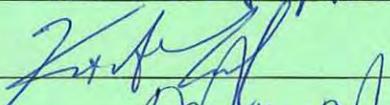
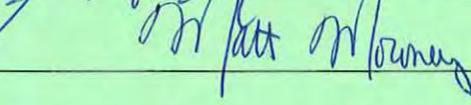
The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Fund was created by Mr. Paul Brandt of Boscobel, Wisconsin, a DNR wildlife manager for 33 years who passed away in September of 2006. Before he died, Mr. Brandt created this named, endowed fund through the Natural Resources Foundation's Wisconsin Conservation Endowment to permanently support the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' wildlife habitat restoration and management activities along the Lower Wisconsin Riverway. Mr. Brandt helped build the Fund during his lifetime, and left a last gift to the Fund in his will. It was his hope that others who utilize the Riverway and who care deeply about its health, will contribute to its protection through additional gifts to the Fund.

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway includes over 44,000 acres of public lands in a six-county area (Grant, Crawford, Richland, Iowa, Sauk and Dane Counties) along 93.2 miles of the Wisconsin River. This Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Fund donation will fund restoration and management of native prairie communities and will help with surveys of trumpeter swans and wood ducks in the Riverway.

Prairies, both remnant pockets and expansive restored tracts, are scattered throughout the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway. Mr. Brandt realized the importance of this community for providing nesting cover to both game birds and a suite of grassland birds. Healthy diverse prairies also support a robust invertebrate population which in turn feeds game bird chicks and numerous small mammals. Mr. Brandt was very active in the establishment and maintenance of prairies in the Riverway. This donation will provide funds for LTE salary, supplies and UTV equipment for essential activities to keep the prairies free of invading woody and herbaceous vegetation. Common management techniques include prescribed burning and manual removal of invasive vegetation (typically cutting and spraying). In all cases, labor is intensive.

We will also use the fund to survey waterfowl within the LWSR. Continuing Paul Brandt's work, hundreds of wood ducks are banded in the Riverway each year. Data from banded ducks helps to understand and manage their populations. Paul was also very enthusiastic about the return of nesting trumpeter swans in the Riverway. Aerial surveys are conducted each year to monitor the population and their productivity.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board accept the generous donation of \$28,309.00 from Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin's Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Fund

Approved by	Signature	Date
Tom Hauge, Bureau Director		10/31/13
Kurt Thiede, Administrator		11/4/13
Cathy Stepp, Secretary		11/13/13

cc: Board Liaison - AD/8  
Department rule coordinator – LS/8

# **Acknowledgment of Gift**

This is to certify that at its December 2013 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted a gift of \$28,309.00 from:

## **Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin's Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Fund**

This donation will be used to support wildlife habitat restoration and management activities along the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway.

Our expression of appreciation on behalf of Wisconsin's citizens is hereby recorded in the official records of the Natural Resources Board. We acknowledge this generous contribution.

Natural Resources Board

Preston D. Cole, Chair