



## Jackson Creek Preserve

The Land Trust of Walworth County created the Jackson Creek preserve about 2 years ago. This is a preserve of special interest to Delavan Lake advocates due to the fact that Jackson Creek is the tributary that 'feeds' Delavan Lake. What happens in the watershed around the creek has a direct effect on our lake. Good land practices, erosion control and storm water runoff interventions are critical elements in the maintenance and improvement projects for our lake. Last year, the DLIA made a substantial donation to the efforts undertaken by the Land Trust through the Jackson Creek Preserve. This donation assisted in the paying for seed and professional services. More importantly, it provided the conservancy with leverage to access both grant money and expertise from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and to mobilize volunteer labor at the Preserve. In addition, three major restoration efforts took place recently: a prairie restoration, the removal of invasive species, and preparation for a prescribed burn planned for spring 2007. The goal of the Preserve is improvement of habitat for wildlife, and enhancement of native vegetation along the creek embankments. This will allow for the trapping of pollutants and sediments before they are sent further downstream into Delavan Lake.

The DLIA plans to continue to be involved in advocacy for this important conservancy, and, hopefully, to be able to continue to provide some financial support. Future Lake Leader columns will update our readers on the progress of such worthwhile, and critical, lake protection efforts. More information on Wisconsin Land Trusts can be found at:

<http://www.gatheringwaters.org/wilandtrusts.php>

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