



# the Meadowlark

A PUBLICATION FROM THE BELWIN CONSERVANCY

FALL/WINTER 2011

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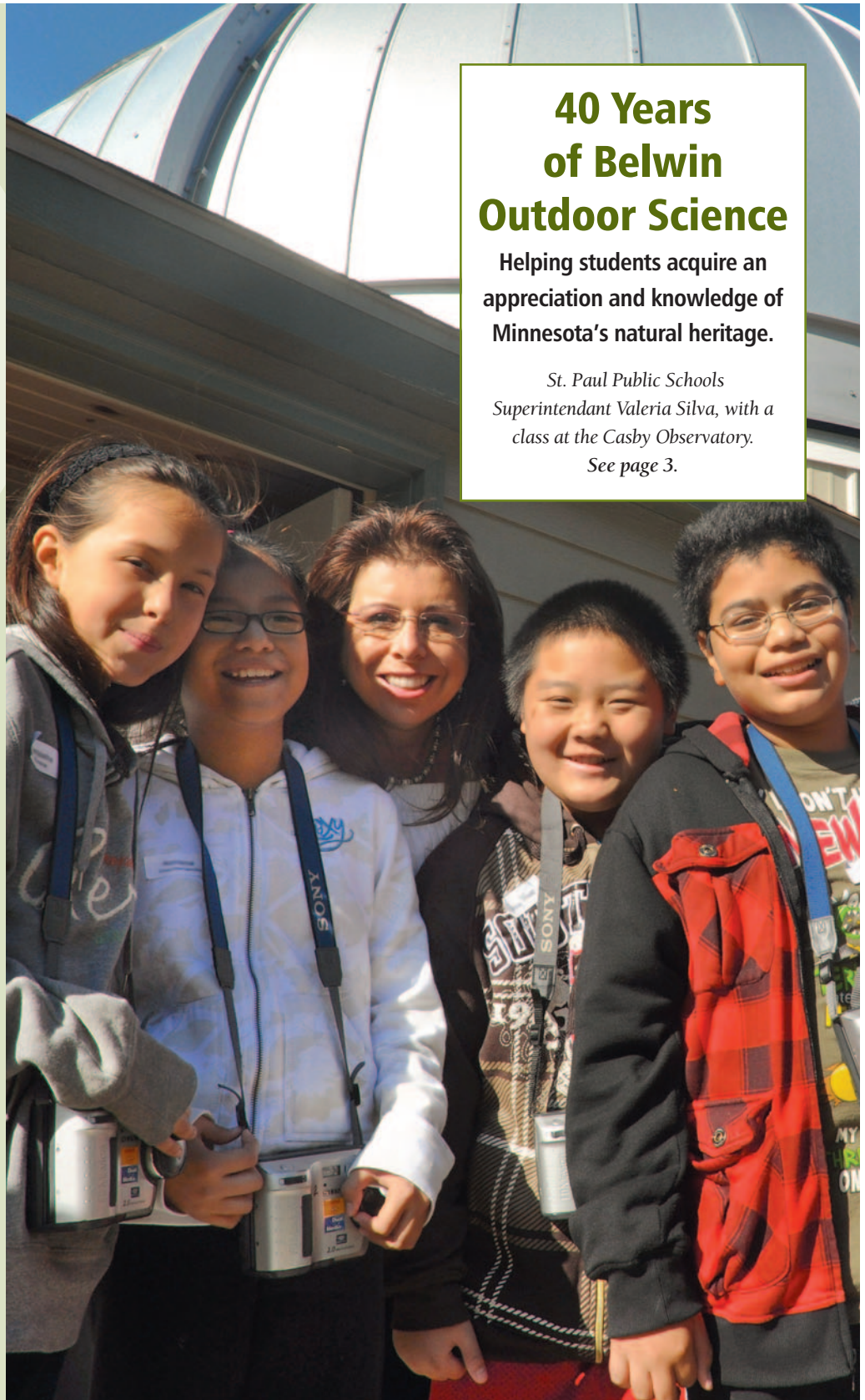
Lucy Winton Bell, Dr. George Young (St. Paul Superintendent), and a student representative broke ground at Belwin in April, 1971.

## 40 Years of Belwin Outdoor Science

Helping students acquire an appreciation and knowledge of Minnesota's natural heritage.

*St. Paul Public Schools Superintendent Valeria Silva, with a class at the Casby Observatory.*

*See page 3.*





## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



### AS I WAS DRIVING HOME THE OTHER DAY, the radio

announced that Dawn Wells (the actress that played Mary Ann on Gilligan's Island) was

turning 73 years old. Mary Ann is 73 years old. If that isn't a wake-up call to one's mortality, I don't know what is. I was always a Mary Ann kinda guy. She was the fun-loving, well-scrubbed girl next door that you could relate to. Ginger scared me.

Funny where ideas originate, but Mary Ann's birthday really got me thinking about how the choices we make can have such a lasting impact on so many. It got me thinking about our place in the world and the legacy we leave behind. How will we be remembered? What have we done to make the world, even just our small corner of it, a better place?

It allowed me to reflect upon all that the Belwin Conservancy has done over the past 40 years. Belwin has been the quiet respite, the walk in the woods or the peaceful spot next to a bubbling brook for literally hundreds of thousands of people. No one's life is quite the

**The choices we make can have such a lasting impact on so many.**

same after a visit here. The people that have created and sustained the Belwin Conservancy have made such an incredible impact on the lives of so many.

I've been lucky enough to witness how Belwin transforms people in the four years that I've been here. It's easy for us to take the beauty and quiet for granted, but all you need to do is to look at the face of a child that sees a wild turkey for the first time or an adult shedding their worries with each step along the trail. That's when you realize that there is something truly special here. You know, we might be on to something with this nature deal.

These past four years have been some of the most rewarding of my life, so it is very difficult for me to say that I am leaving the Belwin Conservancy for new adventures beginning in January. I have taken a position with what I consider to be the premier conservation organization in the nation, The Conservation

Fund, as their Minnesota Program Director. I will be working to conserve land throughout the state.

It was not an easy choice, but I believe that this new opportunity offers me the best chance for making my corner of the world a better place.

I won't be gone entirely. In fact, part of my job will be to continue the good work we are doing to conserve land in the Valley Creek area like the incredible opportunity we have right now to protect the trout of Valley Creek (see page 4). And I will always come back for the bison release and the fun we have rounding them up in the fall!

I wish I could call each and every one of you to thank you in person for giving me the chance to work with you. You are what makes the Belwin Conservancy a positive force for conservation, for education, and for inspiration in this chaotic world. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you've done and all that you continue to do. I know that with your help, the Belwin Conservancy will continue to achieve great things!

Take care,

Steve Hobbs

*Executive Director, Belwin Conservancy*



*With Steve's departure, the Belwin Conservancy is currently engaged in a search for our next director. That director will take the reins at the Belwin Conservancy as it*

*celebrates its 40th anniversary, and guide Belwin through some of the organization's most exciting years.*

*In the near future, the Belwin Conservancy will see some of its greatest conservation opportunities within the Valley Creek watershed and beyond. The Belwin Conservancy is also on the cusp of some very exciting new things with its art and nature program that the new director will have the opportunity to guide and shape.*

*For the time being, Tara Kelly, the Belwin Conservancy's Director of Ecological Restoration will act as Interim Director. Tara came to the Belwin Conservancy in 2007 from Prairie Restorations, Inc. where she was the manager of their Scandia office for several years.*

*Tara will certainly do a fantastic job as Interim Director no matter how long or short her tenure may be.*

### Belwin Conservancy Staff

*left-right, back row: Margie Wilson, Administrative Assistant; Eric Palmen, Caretaker; Steve Hobbs, Executive Director; Ned Phillips, Membership Coordinator; Tara Kelly, Director of Ecological Restoration  
front row: Lynette Anderson, Restoration Assistant; Martin McGough, Property Maintenance*



# 40 Years of Belwin Outdoor Science

Belwin Conservancy with Josh Leonard, *Education Director, Belwin Outdoor Science*

## Charlie and Lucy Winton Bell had tremendous foresight when they founded Belwin 40 years ago.

“WE’RE IN NATURE FOR THE FIRST TIME!” say many students from St. Paul Public Schools (SPPS) upon arriving at Belwin. This simple, yet profound statement falls right out of their mouths as they unload from the bus. This scene has played out over 400,000 times, but it’s always a moving reminder why Belwin is so important.

So many kids spend so little time outside that we frequently refer to them as suffering from "Nature Deficit Disorder." A recent study found that children now consume 11 hours of media every day (*Generation M2: Media in the Lives of 8 to 18-Year-Olds, Kaiser Family Foundation, 2010*). It’s therefore more important than ever to break that cycle and get them outside; and for a generation Belwin has been there to make that happen. How fortunate it is for so many people that Charlie Bell and his wife, Lucy Winton Bell, had the tremendous foresight to establish Belwin 40 years ago.

### 1971

The very first busload of students arrived on November 1, 1971 from Roosevelt elementary on St. Paul’s west side. These first students capped a frenetic year of preparation. The education center had only recently been finished, the towers were new, and miles of trails were freshly cut through the woods and prairies of Belwin.

This was all made possible due to the Bell’s desire to use their property in Afton for a greater purpose.

Together they decided to set aside several hundred acres of their family property to use as a place where urban students could acquire an appreciation and knowledge of Minnesota’s natural heritage.

In 1970, Charlie and Lucy Bell began working with the St. Paul Public Schools to formally establish the Belwin Outdoor Education Laboratory with a cooperative agreement signed by both parties that year. In the agreement, the Bells – through the newly formed Belwin (Bell & Winton) Foundation – agreed to provide and maintain the land and facilities. For its part, the SPPS would be responsible for personnel, transportation and instructional materials. No money changed hands with this agreement – and in 40 years – never has.

### Today

Today, more than 10,000 St. Paul Public School students visit the (recently renamed) Belwin Outdoor Science (BOS) every year including every third and fifth grader in the district. As the name suggests, Belwin Outdoor Science is integrated into the SPPS science curriculum and lessons are closely aligned to Minnesota state science standards. But

before outdoor learning is possible, students first need to learn how to be comfortable in nature.

“When do they [animals] attack us?” and “What do you do if a fox bites you?” are common questions. Before students unload the bus we ask them, “Who is the biggest, scariest animal in the woods today?” Answers

**More than 10,000 students visit Belwin Outdoor Science every year.**

range wildly from bears and wolves to lions and tigers. The students are reminded that they are in fact the biggest, scariest animals at Belwin and that it is the wildlife of Belwin that must take refuge from them.

Once they are introduced to their new natural setting, BOS staff then employ hands-on learning in classes like radio tracking, orienteering, birding and aquatic studies to take full advantage of the unique features found at Belwin. Their visit



*Belwin Outdoor Science naturalist Kurt Peters teaches a class of students about the bison and the tallgrass prairie.*

also includes the use of one of the largest refracting telescopes in Minnesota located at Belwin in the Joseph J. Casby Observatory. On average SPPS elementary students receive about 10% of their total science contact time for the year during one Belwin visit. The incredible resources available to students at Belwin make this astounding fact possible.

Belwin isn’t just for elementary students any more. Josh Leonard, the Education Director at Belwin Outdoor Science, observed that secondary students get very few or no opportunities for field experiences. Josh has worked to design a new curriculum that inspires teenagers to learn science through nature at Belwin. Today nearly 1,000 secondary students visit Belwin to learn field ecology, water quality and other environmental topics.

**Elementary students receive about 10% of their science contact time for the year during one Belwin visit.**

Looking forward, Belwin Outdoor Science has recently received a competitive grant from the EPA to further integrate

– continued on page 6

# Protecting Valley Creek One Property at a Time

**Over the past several years, we've been talking a lot about Valley Creek. It's at the heart of our preserve, it is one of the very best trout streams in the entire region, and we have a unique opportunity before us to protect it forever.**

**VALLEY CREEK IS ALSO WHAT DREW CHARLIE BELL** to this area in the 1950's and stands as the principal reason that the Belwin Conservancy exists today. His original land protection efforts centered on the Creek and as the preserve has grown, protecting the land and water that sustains this gem has remained at the core of our work.

For these reasons, the Belwin Conservancy has been an active participant in the Valley Creek Protection Partnership (VCP) since 2008.

**Valley Creek is one of the very best trout streams in the entire region.**

The VCP is a collaboration among several organizations who are all pooling their resources so that together, we have the greatest combined impact on this irreplaceable natural resource. The VCP

currently includes the Belwin Conservancy, the Minnesota Land Trust, Trout Unlimited, Washington County, and the Valley Branch Watershed District.

The unofficial but most important members of the VCP are the many committed landowners who live along the creek. These landowners know better than anyone how special this creek is. It is because of them that the VCP has been able to string together some very important projects in the past four years.

In 2008 the VCP and the members of the Belwin Conservancy joined together and protected the 12-acre Metcalf property located at the headwaters of the north branch of Valley Creek. In 2009, the members joined again in a year-end push to acquire the 8-acre Wilson Tract that abuts our Kettlekamp Prairie. That same year, the Minnesota Land Trust was able to secure an easement over a 12-acre property that abuts Belwin Conservancy land and Valley Creek.

In 2010, we were able to leverage funding from the Minnesota Legacy amendment to purchase a 17-acre property located very near the mouth of the creek. Also in 2010, we received a donation from the Science Museum of Minnesota of more than 113 acres at the very headwaters of Valley Creek.

Finally, earlier this year, we purchased a 12-acre parcel on the banks of Lake Edith that we then resold with a perpetual conservation easement. Now, thanks to yet another landowning couple on Valley Creek, we once again have an unprecedented opportunity to protect a critical aspect of Valley Creek.

## Our Opportunity

The property that we have an opportunity to protect is a 50-acre parcel located just upstream from our preserve. It contains 2,300 feet of stream channel and is the primary location for much of the trout spawning that occurs on the creek. During the spawning in the fall, hundreds of trout can be seen in the crystal clear water here.

The Belwin Conservancy and the Minnesota Land Trust intend to acquire a conservation easement over the entire 50 acre property that will forever protect the land and ensure that the spawning grounds of Valley Creek retain their pristine condition.

A conservation easement is a valuable tool that we have to protect land. When a landowner conveys a conservation easement to a non-profit organization or government agency, they are giving up the right to develop the property in a way that would be harmful to the land and waters we are trying to conserve. The easement

is tied inextricably to the deed ensuring that the land will always be protected.

A conservation easement can be a great alternative for a landowner because it allows them to continue living on their property and enjoying what they love about it, while protecting it forever. The landowner becomes a partner with the Belwin Conservancy as our mutual interests are met while eliminating the substantial cost that acquisition would entail for the Conservancy. A conservation easement can also be structured so that an organization like the Belwin Conservancy can access the property to perform maintenance or restoration. For many

**Conservation easements allow landowners to continue living on their property, while protecting it forever.**

landowners, having the Conservancy as a partner in the buckthorn battle is a wonderful incentive to place a conservation easement over their land.

Thanks to the generosity of these landowners, we have an incredible opportunity right now to protect one of the most

critical spots along Valley Creek and we need your help to do it.

*We have until the end of the year to raise \$30,000 that will be matched almost twenty-fold by other grants we have solicited and a sizeable donation from the landowners themselves.*

You've done it before and we're sure our membership is up to the challenge again.



*There are over 2,300 feet of stream on the property we are protecting.*

# Grecian Foxglove

by Tara Kelly, Director of Ecological Restoration

**Like many invasive weeds, Grecian foxglove was brought over from Europe for horticultural purposes. It grew in the scrub oak forests of southeastern Europe so it's no surprise that it has taken to the sunny and semi-shaded roadsides of Washington County.**

## IT MAY BE THE COOL WEATHER

making me reflective this morning, but I can't help but think about this past growing season. It's always a bit of a sprint to stay on top of the weeds in our restorations when they all seem to demand attention at the very same time. Our staff did a fantastic job of managing the slew of invasive weeds this summer, but there's one plant that I'm left feeling a little nervous about: Grecian foxglove (*Digitalis lanata*).

It's quite an attractive plant with a spike of cream-colored tubular flowers. However, I recommend you resist the urge to pick this plant, as it is also quite poisonous. It contains a powerful cardiac glycoside, which in minute amounts can slow the heart and, in extreme cases, cause death. The glycoside, digoxin, is used to treat heart problems including atrial fibrillation. It is difficult to synthesize so Digoxin is still extracted from the plant, although commercial use is beginning to decline.

Grecian foxglove is very new to Minnesota and we've been managing small populations of this



plant for a few years now. We pull what we can (while wearing gloves!), mow and spray what we can't feasibly pull. But even given those efforts, this year's crop of Grecian foxglove was impressive. Not impressive just in sheer

**It's an attractive plant with a spike of cream-colored tubular flowers, but it is also quite poisonous.**

numbers of plants, but in their locations.

In previous years, the flowers would emerge in late June in a few predictable locations. Like clockwork, we would return to those spots and remove the plants we found. This year, however, the foxglove plants were showing up in locations

that never had a sign of foxglove before. I wondered if our equipment had been in those areas and inadvertently transported seed, but most of the new foxglove populations were in uncharted territory.

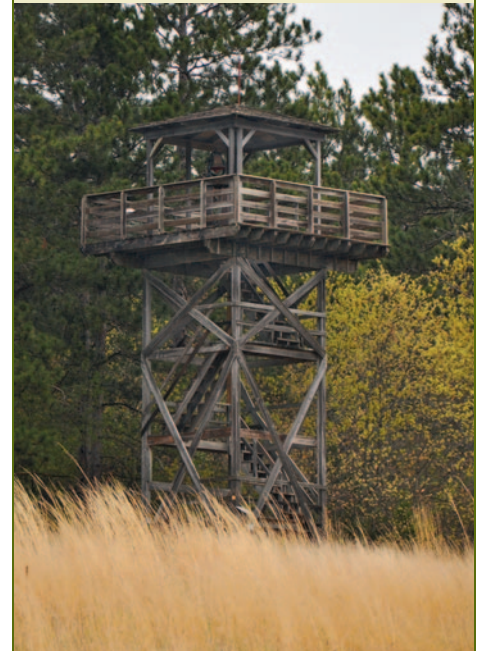
The most likely explanation is the transport of seeds in the fur of animals; the seed pods have barbs that can easily attach to fur or clothing. The life cycle of foxglove is biennial (growing vegetatively in its first year and flowering the next), so the transport of the seed to the new locations must have occurred two years ago if we saw the flowers this season.

Although nervous about this plant's potential impacts, I am optimistic about managing this species. We were able to pull, mow or spray almost every population we knew about on the preserve. And we're not the only ones with the plant on their radar screens. Grecian foxglove is one of only three invasive plant species that is on the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's "Eradicate List". As opposed to the "Controlled List", the three species listed here for Minnesota are either not yet present in the state or are not widely established. In other words, we still have a fighting chance to make sure these species do not become a statewide issue. And we intend to continue to do our part in our neck of the woods here at the Belwin Conservancy.

## New Observation Tower

Anyone who visited the Belwin Conservancy for our fall event on October 8 probably noticed that the observation tower next to the Education Center was gone. As we began a small restoration project on it this spring, we were dismayed to find that it needed extensive repairs and for safety reasons, it simply had to be closed.

It was a hard decision to close the tower, particularly since it too was celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. The same dedicated volunteers who constructed the Education Center building and all the surrounding trails also built the tower between April and October 1971. The tower has since been a part of every visit to Belwin Outdoor Science from that first busload of students through this year.



Closing the tower was an unfortunate necessity and we knew at the time we had to replace it right away. We immediately began planning a new tower and late this summer we removed the old tower and began work on the new one.

As of this writing a large concrete foundation has been poured, and supplies are arriving so that construction can progress into the winter months. The new tower will be almost identical in height, but with a different, more substantial design.

Once complete, we hope this new tower will serve the next 40 years of Belwin visitors.

environmental education into the SPPS science curriculum. The EPA grant will transform Belwin into a training platform to enable teachers to take their classrooms outside in their schoolyards or a local park. "There's an incredible surge of urban outdoor classroom activity in St. Paul," says Leonard. "The EPA grant will enable BOS to give teachers the skills, tools, and resources to teach right out their back doors."

40th Anniversary

To mark 40 years of this remarkable program, on September 29th, Belwin Conservancy Board Chair David Hartwell, grandson of Charlie and Lucy Bell, welcomed St. Paul mayor Chris Coleman and superintendent Valeria Silva to Belwin. Along with School Board members, and other administrators from the St. Paul Public Schools, they came to visit a 5th grade class from Phalen Lake elementary during its

visit to Belwin Outdoor Science.

Officials saw students engaged with their natural surroundings.

What they saw was Belwin as it was conceived by Charlie and Lucy Bell 40 years ago. They saw students engaged with their

natural surroundings and taking advantage of this unique place to gain an understanding – a working knowledge – of nature and their connection to it.



St. Paul Mayor, Chris Coleman, looks though a microscope at pondwater collected by SPPS 5th graders.



How Does Tree Canopy Affect Stream Temperature?

The temperature of a stream plays a large role its ecology and influences factors such as photosynthesis, dissolved oxygen levels, and ultimately the health of the stream. With air temperatures likely increasing in the future, understanding the effects of tree canopy cover on stream temperatures will assist in the understanding and management of stream ecology. Daniel Hornbach, Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies at Macalester College, is conducting research of both forested and open sections of the north branch of Valley Creek to determine what effect canopy has on the temperature of the stream.

He and his students have been using continuously-recording data loggers to document both fine scale temperature fluctuations (diurnal) as well as larger scale temperature variations (interseasonal and interannual). The data is being collected using

both in-stream data loggers that measure the stream water temperature and flow as well as weather stations to measure air temperature, wind speed, humidity and other environmental variables.

This research project is unique in that it includes multiple research sites covering a range of latitudes, topography, vegetation, and stream types. As the study unfolds, it will cover multiple years of continuous temperature readings. The information will be used to detect different average and maximum temperatures in open reaches compared to forested reaches and determine the specific site factors that lead to differences between all of the streams included in the study. Computer models will be used to elucidate the most important environmental variables that contribute to elevated stream temperatures in open reaches.

A REGULAR SURVEY OF RESEARCH OCCURRING AT THE BELWIN CONSERVANCY



At our Fall Event this year, we had renowned Polar Explorer, Ann Bancroft, on hand to tell us about her experiences as the first woman to cross the ice to reach both the North and South Poles. Ann also told us about her upcoming 2012 expedition back to the South Pole. Following her talk, she took questions and signed books. It was great having her at the Belwin Conservancy.



## Thank you!

SINCE THE VERY BEGINNING IN 1971, Belwin has relied on a community of engaged and committed members who – more than anything else – have made this organization a success. Some were among the first supporters and volunteers who helped to establish Belwin. Some joined the ‘Friends of Belwin’ organization. And many have come aboard in recent years as new members of the Belwin Conservancy. What everyone has always shared is a common desire to support conservation in our community and to make sure that future generations of students have the opportunity to visit this place, and experience a truly unspoiled natural setting for themselves. Today, as the Belwin Conservancy turns 40, we thank not only the membership of 2011 (*below*), but recognize the commitment of all those who came before. You have made the Belwin Conservancy a reality.

### Benefactor & Sustaining Members

Wendy Baker & Gregory Westphal  
Helen Baker  
Daniela Bell & Eric Foster  
Sharon Glasrud  
David Hartwell & Elizabeth DeBaut  
Charlie Hartwell  
Lucy Hartwell  
Steve, Michelle & Madison Hobbs  
Bruce & Jean Johnson  
Douglas Johnson  
Lawrence & Tamara Morrissey  
Constance & Joseph Paiement  
Irene Qualters  
John & Linda Satorius  
Anne & Robert Simpson  
Jean Marie & Peter Ulland  
Mary Williams  
Alys & Frank Wilson  
Steve & Susan Woods  
Tom Youngblood & Nancy Brooks

Mary Pat & Mike German  
Mary & Peter Gilbertson  
Cynthia & John Gilpin  
Randy & Kathy Graham  
Georgia Haft  
Patrick & J. Drake Hamilton  
Craig & Karen Hansen  
Peter & Sally Harris  
William & Helen Hartfiel  
Lorraine Hasselquist  
Scott Hawley & Holly Melroe  
Colleen & Greg Hayne  
Priscilla & Kirk Hedberg  
Jeffrey & Lucy Heegaard  
William & Elizabeth Heegaard  
Charlie & Susan Hipp  
Greg & Diana Hippel  
Douglas & Christine Hlavacek  
Ronald Hockin  
Kathy & Mike Hopkins  
Ken & Juliane Janey  
Everett Janssen  
Joel & Laura Jensen  
Karen Jensen  
Dwight & Pam Johnson  
Neal & Elizabeth Johnston  
Sherwood Johnston & Laurie Maher  
James Joyce  
Martha & Dr. Arthur Kaemmer  
George & Julie Kinney  
Linda Klecker in honor of Tim Sr., Linda, Margaret, and Tim Jr. Klecker  
Margaret Kohring  
Jim & Mary Kubiak  
Mary & Alan Lacer  
Douglas & Betsy Lake  
August LaRenzie & Tammy Seidl  
Charles & Hope Lea  
Mitch & Jeanne Leppicello  
Margaret & Dave Lijja  
Clayton Lindsey & Ines Alonso  
Charlie & Becky Lyon  
Sarah & Tony Manzara  
Howard Markus  
Sheila Maybanks  
Loring W. & Lucy J. McAllister  
Rick & Joan Meierotto in memory of Dr. Willem Dieperink  
Alida Messinger  
Chester & Miriam Meyers  
Gregory & Ruth Ann Michnay  
Rebecca Morris  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Newmark  
Marla Ordway  
Jennifer & Tim Otremba  
Helen & Ralph Pennie  
Michael Perkins

Mark & Erica Peterson  
Ned & Sarah Phillips  
Donald & Susan Place  
Sally Polk  
Stephan & Marion Potyondy  
Gale & Isabel Qualls  
William Ramsden & Doreen Lynch  
Jan & Bonnie Reyers  
Mary Rivett  
Lucy Rogers & Larry Grant  
Nicholas & Karen Schmit  
Sherrill & Paul Schottler  
Mary Jane Setterberg  
Stanley Shepard  
Dick & Ella Slade  
Phillip & Gloria Smith  
Melissa Snell  
James Stahnke  
Judith Steltzner  
Valerie Stoehr & Carol Iwata  
Carol Swanson  
Steve & Colleen Swedberg in honor of Minnesota  
Graham & Anna Marie Thatcher in honor of David Hartwell  
Hal Tiffany  
Mark Vargo  
Lawrence Waite  
Patricia Walker & Rebecca Enos  
Laurie Waterman  
Allen Weekley  
Susan & Steve Wilson  
Vera Ming Wong  
Lucia Wroblewski

### Supporting Members

Elizabeth Anderson  
John Andrus  
Sarah Atkins & John Hoggatt  
Jo & Gordon Bailey  
John & Caroline Bailion  
John Beard  
Robert & Camilla Beattie  
Johanna Bell in memory of Samuel H. Bell  
Gerard & Marcy Bents  
John Bischoff  
Colleen Bjerke  
Susan Brust  
Robert & Susan Burns  
Kurt Casby  
Elizabeth Charbonneau  
Dan & Dianne Christensen  
Heather & Tony Collen  
Mary Lee Dayton  
Robert & Jill DeMaster  
Diane & Allan Dettmann  
Anne Dieperink  
Joseph Duffy  
Patricia & Terry Dugan  
Steven & Lizabeth Emert  
Georgia Entenza  
Frederick & Carol Entwistle  
Dawn & Michael Erlandson  
Michael & Holly Finch  
Peter & Colleen Findlay  
Laura Fischer & Allen Fuechtmann  
Tim Fischer  
Caroline & Dutton Foster  
James & Judith Frank

Joel & Laura Jensen  
Karen Jensen  
Dwight & Pam Johnson  
Neal & Elizabeth Johnston  
Sherwood Johnston & Laurie Maher  
James Joyce  
Martha & Dr. Arthur Kaemmer  
George & Julie Kinney  
Linda Klecker in honor of Tim Sr., Linda, Margaret, and Tim Jr. Klecker  
Margaret Kohring  
Jim & Mary Kubiak  
Mary & Alan Lacer  
Douglas & Betsy Lake  
August LaRenzie & Tammy Seidl  
Charles & Hope Lea  
Mitch & Jeanne Leppicello  
Margaret & Dave Lijja  
Clayton Lindsey & Ines Alonso  
Charlie & Becky Lyon  
Sarah & Tony Manzara  
Howard Markus  
Sheila Maybanks  
Loring W. & Lucy J. McAllister  
Rick & Joan Meierotto in memory of Dr. Willem Dieperink  
Alida Messinger  
Chester & Miriam Meyers  
Gregory & Ruth Ann Michnay  
Rebecca Morris  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Newmark  
Marla Ordway  
Jennifer & Tim Otremba  
Helen & Ralph Pennie  
Michael Perkins

Whitney & Sarah Clark  
Armand Cohen & Susan Green  
Mike & Julia Costello  
Elizabeth Cowie  
Jim Cox  
Mary Croft  
Frances Czaia  
Tim & Sarah Davies  
Susan & James Davis  
Steven DeLapp  
Christine DeRose  
Jane & George Dierberger  
Joanne Drahnak  
Cynthia Elder  
John G. Erickson  
JoAnn Facente  
Edward & Kathy Fagerlund  
Stacy Flom  
Barbara Ford  
Janet Garlock  
Roger Gay  
Don Gettinger  
Michael & JoAnne Goertz  
Carol & Richard Gross  
Howard Guthmann  
Bill & Vicky Hakala  
Barbara & Joe Halligan  
Laurie & Marty Halvorson  
Vicki Hartmann  
Jon Hayman  
Bernie Heimel  
Mark & Sheryl Henly  
Sonja Hietala  
Constance Hillard & Francis Coyne  
Diane & Tony Hilscher  
Sara Holmdahl  
Jean Howell  
Hugh & Jean Huelster  
Louise Huff  
James Hughes  
Dave & Erin Jakupciak  
Michael L. Jones  
Kathryn & Tom Kent  
John Kimberly  
Bradley & Joanne Kletscher  
Ken & Anne Knutson

### Basic Members

Pam Albin  
Bruce Albrecht  
James & Virginia Anderson  
Lynette Anderson  
Frances Atwood  
Thomas & Judy Behr  
Mr. & Mrs. C. Meredith Bend  
Julianne Berg  
Denise Berigan-Pirro  
Lindell & Sandra Blanchette in memory of Floyd Blanchette  
Len Bohrer  
James & Dawn Brehl  
Lois Brenner  
Wiley Buck & Erica Lepp  
Karen Buggs  
Alberta Burns  
Lori Callahan in honor of family and friends  
Marjana & Robert Callery  
Lori Catlow-Price

**January 28, 2012: Winter Event** One characteristic that defines Minnesotans is the ferocity with which we recreate in the wintertime. In celebration of that determination to get outside, all 2011 and 2012 members are invited to spend some of that time at the Belwin Conservancy during our winter open house.

**April 21, 2012: Spring Event** Once spring has sprung, all 2012 members of the Belwin Conservancy are invited to come to our spring open house and enjoy the season at the Belwin Conservancy.

**June 16, 2012: Bison Release** Please join us for our annual bison release in June. Watch for an announcement with more details next year.

**Summer, 2012** Members who give \$100 or more annually (including via installments of as little as \$8 a month) are invited to a number of additional free tours and workshops at the Belwin Conservancy. These include bird walks, bison safaris, camera workshops, and more. Look for a full schedule of events soon.

**October 13, 2012: Annual Meeting** Our fall event & annual meeting is your chance to ask questions and give us feedback on our work. We hope every Belwin Conservancy member can join us for the meeting and then take in the splendors of autumn at the Belwin Conservancy.

Barb Kopp  
Kenneth & Janyce Kurttila  
Laurel Lapore  
Richard Law  
Josh & Steph Leonard  
Stuart Levy  
Sharon & LeRoy Looser  
John & Patricia Love  
Mary Lusher & Jeff Peterson in memory of Roberta Delgard-Schrankler  
William Lutz  
James & Nancy Malkowski  
Cameron McConnell  
Bryan & Karin McGinnis  
Ronald & Cindy Melzer  
Buck & Darla Messens  
Phyllis Merrill  
Robert & Judy Michaelis  
G. Dean & Doreen Miller  
Ann Mockenhaupt  
Keith Mogren & Colleen Belisle  
Darlene Moynagh  
Russell Myers & Mary Suelzt  
Dale & Diane Nichols  
Margaret Nimmo  
Mary Jo & Greg Norum  
Ron & Erin Omann  
Jessica Peters  
Frank & Nancy Petersen  
MaryAnne & Paul Peterson  
Laurel Porter  
Linda Quammen  
Deena & Steve Reisman  
Mr. & Mrs. Myron Reubendale  
Chuck Ronnei  
Patrick & Mary Rugloski  
Matilda & Bob Rupp  
Judith & Thomas Russell II  
Donna Savage  
Betty Schilling  
Robert Schumacher  
Thomas Shepard  
William Simmons  
Connie & CW Simpson  
William Simpson  
Robert Snyder

Mark Stedman & Nancy Bode  
Ladonna Stickan  
Mickey Stickan  
D. Alwyn Stivers  
Sarah Strommen  
Rebecca Swanson  
Lawrence Syverud  
Carol & Davidson Tanner  
Stacy Tepp in honor of Minnesota  
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Washington Conservation District  
Washington County



# BELWIN CONSERVANCY

1553 Stagecoach Trail South  
Afton, Minnesota 55001-9703  
651 436 5189 651 436 2899 *fax*  
[www.belwin.org](http://www.belwin.org)

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## *Inspiring through Nature*

The mission of the Belwin Conservancy is inspiring our connection to the natural world.



### *Weather Station Now Accessible*

Located in the prairie directly out the door of the Education Center is a weather station that has been dutifully collecting meteorological data for decades.

**THIS SCIENTIFIC-GRADE STATION** collects important meteorological data used by the scientists and government agencies who monitor Valley Creek. They use the data collected from this station to help them build accurate stream flow models of the renowned trout stream.

Although this weather station has been quietly collecting data for years, there has never been a way to access that information until now. In March, the Valley Branch Watershed District (VBWD), one of the principal users of the weather station's data, awarded the Belwin Conservancy a \$1,800 grant to make the station available to other users. Along with a generous gift from Chuck and Hope Lea, the Belwin Conservancy purchased a computer and monitor as well as software used to create a weather display inside the Education Center.

**Now view  
weather  
conditions at  
the Belwin  
Conservancy  
online.**

The display will show in near real-time the current weather conditions at the Belwin Conservancy. The other exciting thing this upgrade allows us to do, is post the current conditions online. You can now view the weather conditions at the Belwin Conservancy any time by visiting: [www.belwin.org/weather](http://www.belwin.org/weather).

