

December 2012

Dear Friends:

On behalf of all of us at Whiterock – the Board, staff, volunteers and especially our visitors, I want to thank you for your support of our efforts at Whiterock Conservancy. Your support has enabled us to build on the success of our restoration and conservation efforts at Whiterock, making a lasting difference for nature and people along the Middle Racoon River Valley.

As you may know, Iowa leads the country in agriculture, but believe it or not, did you know that Iowa ranks almost dead last – 49th in the country in percentage of public lands. The need for Iowa to increase land conservation efforts is critical. That's why Whiterock Conservancy is so important – it represents one of the first major conservation efforts in Iowa in the 21st century.

Founded just seven years ago, Whiterock Conservancy now stretches a full eight miles along both banks of the beautiful Middle Racoon River connecting the varied landscapes of rolling pastures, oak savannas, native and restored prairies, wetlands and crop grounds – all diverse habitats that are critical to hundreds of species of birds, mammals and other wildlife.

Not only is Whiterock Conservancy the steward of this rich land – but thanks to your support – the land itself is an invaluable living laboratory, with ongoing projects designed to create new models of sustainable agriculture that can be “rolled out” to help other farmers and land owners in our region.

For those who now live in urban environments with little connection with the outdoors – Whiterock Conservancy invites visitors to explore and better understand the relationship between people and nature. Whiterock offers many recreational and educational activities and events throughout the year, including hiking, biking, equestrian trails, bird watching, fishing, river floats, stargazing and so much more. The opportunities at Whiterock Conservancy are as varied as the wildlife.

Perhaps most importantly, environmental students from Iowa's top universities also tell us Whiterock is a unique treasure, an irreplaceable resource for the community to experience and to protect.

And, that's the second reason I'm writing today. Whiterock Conservancy is the community's treasure. In these uncertain economic times, Whiterock counts on your support – now more than ever.

I believe you understand and value our work. The land and its health is the one irreplaceable part of life that we can immediately protect and enrich as responsible stewards. Your gift is extremely important to Whiterock Conservancy because it provides resources that make an immediate impact – that will help us through these interesting – and tough – times.

For those of us who love the land, Whiterock Conservancy grants us the opportunity to plant our personal stake to help protect this land and its wildlife for future generations to enjoy.

Please plant your personal stake today. Your donation is a tax-deductible contribution as allowed by law. A donation envelope is enclosed for your convenience. You can also donate online via credit card on our secure website at www.whiterockconservancy.org.

Please consider making as generous a gift as you can.

I also want to invite you to visit Whiterock Conservancy soon and to follow our progress via Facebook and our website.

Partnerships are key to successful land protection; and you are a critical part of the partnership. Please join me today by supporting Whiterock Conservancy!

Thank you in advance for planting your stake in Whiterock's future.

Sincerely,

Ken Herring
President of the Board
Whiterock Conservancy

P.S. Your support will make a real difference! For example, \$30 covers the cost of vaccinating one buffalo for the year, \$175 feeds our burn crew for one day and \$350 supports the removal of invasive species from one acre of land to restore the native oak savanna landscape.