



# Preserve

LAWSON LANDMARKS

GREEN LAKE, WISCONSIN

## Mission

Preserve Lawson Landmarks is committed to restoring the original structures built by Jessie and Victor Lawson for their farm and estate, which is now the Green Lake Conference Center. Efforts focus on the preservation of the property's original water towers, repair of the stone walls and bridges, and restoration of the boathouse, all built between 1888 and 1925.

## Steering Committee

David Cullen (chair)  
Kathy Cullen  
Amy Kimen  
Gail Kimen  
Amber Klein  
Bob Kleinpaste  
Ann Mijatovich  
Karen Mittelstadt  
Henry Pearsall

## Upcoming Events

Party With a Purpose: June 14  
Crossroads Brat Barn Fundraiser: July 6

## Learn More

For more information and to donate, visit us online at:

[www.preservelawsonlandmarks.org](http://www.preservelawsonlandmarks.org)

or send an email to:

[info@preservelawsonlandmarks.org](mailto:info@preservelawsonlandmarks.org).

Checks can be mailed to PLL, PO Box 586, Green Lake, WI 54941, payable to GLCC with Preserve Lawson Landmarks in the memo. All donations are tax-deductible.



# Spring 2024 Newsletter

Wisconsin's mild winter and early spring have aligned to give Preserve Lawson Landmarks a head start on our preservation efforts for 2024. We are eager to provide you with a project update, in addition to sharing the date for the annual Party With a Purpose, and more news and notes.

## Thank You for Your Generous Financial Support

Since our founding in 2021, Preserve Lawson Landmarks has raised more than \$125,000. This includes the proceeds from our very successful 2023 end-of-year appeal, which garnered close to \$23,000 in donations, ranging from \$50 to \$5,000.

## Project Update

Because of your generosity, we have been able to complete work at five of the small water towers on the conference center grounds. Some, like Prospect Tower and the Guild Prayer Tower, have been completely restored. This includes tree and brush clearing, concrete patching, exterior cleaning, and new roofs, windows, and doors. Work on the other small towers has been staged to take advantage of weather and contractor availability, as well as funding. For example, Heifer Tower, which is located near Beebe Court, has been cleaned and its concrete has been patched. Builders Tower, adjacent to the prairie, has a new roof. And Teen Tower, which overlooks Norwegian Bay, has already benefited from tree removal, exterior cleaning, and concrete patching, and is slated for a new roof in 2024.

In the coming months, we are focusing our fundraising efforts and project management on a plan to complete the restoration of all the small towers in 2024. This includes the structural work mentioned above (cleaning, patching, windows/doors, roofs, etc.), as well as finishing touches such as bronze plaques for each tower and some natural landscaping.



*Aerial photography of the Judson Tower roof.*

## Judson Tower and the Boathouse

We speak of these as the “big two,” and we know many of you are very interested in seeing these structures saved. We have plans to partner with the conference center and the Dartford Historical Society to invite experts from the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office to advise on these complex rehabilitation projects. To inform that discussion, local realtor Kyle Johnson volunteered to come out and take some aerial photographs and drone video. Particularly with the 140-foot Judson Tower, this new perspective shed light on the condition of the upper landing and roof.

## Other Preservation Work by the GLCC

While Preserve Lawson Landmarks has been focused on the water towers, the Green Lake Conference Center has been engaged in additional preservation efforts to help save the Lawson-era features. This includes a rebuild of the grape arbor, which was built by the Lawsons in 1910 and is in the main conference area. The conference center is also funding the ongoing restoration of the original stone walls and bridges, which run throughout the grounds.

## Numerous Community Events

From June’s Party With a Purpose to the open house at Guild Prayer Tower in August, we were pleased to see so many of you at our 2023 events. We have also been excited to share our story and goals with several community organizations, including the Dartford Educational Club and the Dartford Historical Society at its annual meeting. The preservation efforts also got some good publicity when we sponsored a Christmas tree, decorated with Lawson-era building materials, as part of the Green Lake Rotary’s annual display.

Looking ahead to 2024, Preserve Lawson Landmarks will be collaborating with the Dartford Historical Society on a new exhibit about Lone Tree Farm, which was the name of the Lawson’s property originally. The exhibit is slated to launch mid-summer and will feature early construction on the farm, as well as current preservation efforts. We will also be advancing our fundraising efforts by serving burgers and brats out of the Brat Barn at Crossroads Market on Saturday, July 6, 10am-2pm; hope to see many of you there.



*The preserved Guild Prayer Tower at night.*

## Volunteers and In-Kind Donors

Perhaps one of the more unexpected pleasures of PLL’s preservation efforts has been the partnerships we have established with area businesses and craftspeople. They have either donated their time and professional services or greatly reduced their costs to support our preservation work. Because of their generosity, we have been able to stretch your donations so much further. We would like to thank ACTS Tree Service, Al’s Extreme Tree, Steve and Katrina Bentley, Dr. Steve Blaha, Ever Clear Window Cleaners, Amy Arnetveit of Fusion Creative, Fox Valley Dustless Blasting, Joe Gaffney Custom Builders, Good Impressions Printing, the Green Lake Sanitary District, Integrity Lawn Service, Interstate Roofing, Kyle Johnson, Cyril Matter, arborist Dave Ryan, the Sign Palace, Sparkle Wash Fox Valley, Cathie Van Wert of DoubleTake Design, Jim Stamm, Al Walker, Webster’s Marketplace, Morgan Werch Welch of Wonder Work Design, mason Jim Weigert, and the volunteers from SouthField Church.

## 2024 Party With a Purpose – Save the Date

The 2024 Party With a Purpose is scheduled for Friday, June 14, at 5pm. Joe and Darlene Holik, who live on Shore Drive within the conference center, will be our hosts. Please watch your mail for your official invitation to the 2024 Party With a Purpose and put a hold on your calendar in the meantime.