

Thank you, Frautschis

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The gift card may have read "To Walter Frautschi" but in truth, it was a Christmas gift to the entire state.

Madison businessmen John and Jerry Frautschi donated \$1.5 million to the University of Wisconsin Foundation so the foundation can buy 16.6-acres of land on the shore of Lake Mendota. The Frautschis donated the money in honor of their father, Walter Frautschi, who learned of the gift on Christmas night, when his sons presented him with a plaque commemorating the gift.

The property, known as Second Point, could have fetched more than \$3 million had it been sold to developers. The foundation will buy it from the State Medical Society and Northwestern University, which inherited the land in 1986 from Dr. Reginald Jackson. That the medical society and Northwestern were willing to let the land go for \$1.5 million makes it a gift from them, too. That the State Medical Society will use its share of the money for loans for needy medical students makes it even sweeter.

The best part of the Frautschis' gift is, to use an old advertising cliché, it's truly a gift that will keep on giving. Spared from the bulldozers, its trees, hills and hummocks will provide home for birds, squirrels, mice, raccoons and other wildlife. Its shoreline and trails will offer an oasis of peace for generations of students.

Thank you, John, Jerry, Walter and all the Frautschis — and a happy new year to you, too.