



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 26, 2012

CONTACT: Patricia Cassady
Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council Coordinator
Office 630-829-1142
Mobile 630-930-2298
patricia.cassady@chicagowilderness.org

Nonprofits and Businesses Join Forces for Chicago's Wilderness Alliance Welcomes New Corporate Council Members

CHICAGO—The Chicago Wilderness alliance is pleased to welcome new members: Huff & Huff, Inc., Michael Baker Jr., Inc., New South, and Weaver Boos Consultants to its Corporate Council.

“I look at the Corporate Council members as industry leaders, creating a new standard of corporate citizenship for the long-term environmental and economic health of our region,” said Jim Jerozal, Managing Director, Energy Efficiency for Nicor Gas, an AGL Resources Company, and Chair, Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council. “The Corporate Council is committed to fostering a sustainable relationship between people and nature and actively support the long-term protection, restoration and stewardship of the region’s lands and waters.”

Through programs such as the Day of Service—an annual event to encourage volunteerism—the Corporate Council members connect local residents to restoration and stewardship opportunities. The 2012 Day of Service is on September 29, 2012

Huff & Huff, Inc. (H&H) is a multidisciplinary firm, located in Oak Brook, Illinois, providing environmental and civil engineering services as well as natural resource assessments. The diversity of the firm’s expertise allows effective solutions for clients on a broad range of topics, including wastewater, water quality, wetlands, groundwater remediation, air pollution, water pollution, hazardous waste, waste management, noise and vibration, NEPA documents, environmental site assessments, underground storage tanks, and risk assessments.

Their work has been recognized with five Engineering Excellence awards for noise, remediation, wastewater, and water quality projects. Currently H&H is the Tollway’s environmental consultant and the Illinois Department of Transportation’s statewide noise consultant, providing training and oversight on noise issues and IDOT District 1 Wetland Consultant. In addition, Metra has designated H&H as its wetland consultant for four years. These responsibilities are indicative of the quality and effectiveness of H&H’s work.

“As our broad range of experience and success shows, Huff & Huff is dedicated to helping people work with our environment and resources, not against them,” said Jim Huff, at Huff & Huff. “We view membership on the Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council as another step in that direction. We are proud to partner with an alliance of such strength and commitment.”

Michael Baker Jr. Inc. provides engineering design, planning and construction management services for some of its clients’ most complex challenges worldwide. The firm’s primary business areas are water resources & environmental, transportation, municipal & civil, pipelines & utilities, rail & transit, geospatial, architecture, aviation, defense and homeland security. Today, with over 3,200 professional employees in 100 offices across the United States and abroad, Baker consistently ranks among the top 10% of the 500 largest U.S. design firms by Engineering News-Record (ENR).

Baker’s Chicago office is currently providing engineering and construction services for a number of unique and innovative ecosystems restoration, floodplain, hazard mitigation, environmental, structural and transportation projects

throughout the Chicago Wilderness region. Many of these projects have distinctive components that protect and restore healthy, functioning natural systems and sustain our communities' quality of life.

“Baker’s national and international expertise is bolstered by the local familiarity and the relationships of its nearly 50 design professionals and staff that call Chicago home,” said Gary Paradoski, P.E., Senior Water Resources Engineer at Baker. “We are committed to preserving and restoring Chicago’s natural resources and are excited about the opportunity to play a role on the Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council.”

New South, based in Madison, Mississippi, provides unique access and construction matting solutions to a wide array of customer and construction sites, including the electric utility and oil and gas energy industries. New South pioneered the first system for use in constructing transmission lines in environmentally sensitive wetland habitats that allow for the usage of equipment weighing several tons while leaving minimal footprint on marshes.

“New South focuses on providing low impact access solutions that meet required guidelines for permitting while staying within our client’s budget and on deadline,” said Jon Keener, New South - Midwest Manager, Manager of New South’s Earthsafe Division. “We focus on safety concerns, minimizing impact to land and wildlife, and are responsible to landowners and their concerns as we provide a necessary task of access for our clients to make improvements for their customers.”

New South’s most recent endeavor is the launch of Conservation Zone, a program that promotes corporate stewardship to protect land and wildlife and reclaim damaged habitats.

Weaver Boos is a consulting firm that integrates environmental and ecological sensitivities with economical design solutions. They work with municipal and private sector clients to cultivate project remedies that are sustainable and affordable. Our team includes environmental professionals, engineers, sustainability experts, grant writers, and planners who provide environmental, ecological, and infrastructure solutions from a holistic perspective, factoring in sustainable solutions wherever possible and practicable. Based in Chicagoland, our service area extends to 48 states.

“We are delighted to welcome these four strong and dedicated companies to our regional alliance as new partners in our collaborative efforts to protect and restore the interconnected lands and waters of our metropolitan landscape,” said Melinda Pruett-Jones, Executive Director of Chicago Wilderness. “Their commitment to our region and resources shines through their decades of experience and now their membership on our Corporate Council.

About Chicago Wilderness

Chicago Wilderness is a regional alliance that connects people and nature. More than 260 public, private and corporate organizations work together to restore local nature and improve the quality of life for all who live here, by protecting the lands and waters on which we all depend. The four key initiatives of Chicago Wilderness—to restore the health of local nature, promote green infrastructure, combat climate change, and leave no child inside—reflect our commitment to using science and emerging knowledge, as well as a collaborative approach to conservation, to benefit all the region’s residents. For more information, visit www.chicagowilderness.org.

###