

# 2018 Wisconsin Land Trust Conference

March 8-10, 2018

Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center, Onalaska



***DRAFT PROGRAM as of January 2, 2018, subject to modification***

## Thursday, March 8

**12:30pm** Conference check-in open

**1:00 – 4:00** *Workshops – Separate registration required, just \$25!*

### **I. Financial Management for Land Trusts**

*Dana Chabot, Gathering Waters*

Spend appropriately, report accurately, be innovative! Delve into budgeting, developing financial reports, tracking restricted and designated funds, and helping your organization better manage its finances.

### **II. Best Practices for Monitoring: From the basics to tips for tackling tough challenges**

*Kevin Thusius, Ice Age Trail Alliance; Abbie Church, Mississippi Valley Conservancy; Jim Johannsen, Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (IL); Caleb Pourchot, LANDSCAPE*

Up your monitoring game, whether you are just getting started, or are looking for greater efficiencies or innovative ways to track the lay of the land and enhance landowner relations.

**3:30** Conference check-in open

**4:15** **Welcome & Land Conservation Celebration**

*Gathering Waters staff; Kathy Oppegard, [Kathy Oppegard Coaching](#)*

Join with your land trust peers to celebrate successes and envision more: more engaged volunteers, more political wins for conservation, more financial support, and more enthusiastic collaborations!

**5:30 – 7:00** **Reception hosted by Mississippi Valley Conservancy's Board of Directors**

**7:00 – 9:00** **Dinner and Dessert Potluck**

*The dessert potluck competition is back! Bring a dessert to share. You can drop it off when you check in for the Conference. Please bring any utensils needed for serving. We'll provide napkins, plates, forks & spoons.*

## Friday, March 9

*Breakfast is included with lodging for those staying at Stoney Creek Hotel.*

**7:30am** Conference check-in open

**8:30** **Team work to promote land trusts**

*Kathy Oppegard, Kathy Oppegard Coaching*

We know we are up against a lot of challenges in meeting our mission to protect land and resources-- what if tackling these challenges with playfulness encouraged more people to join us? What if a pathway to increased public engagement was...fun? Engage in teamwork to communicate the value of, and grow support for, land conservation.

**10:00** **Break**

**10:15 Putting Tweety on Point: Birds as Conservation Catalysts**

*Craig Thompson, DNR*

See what the power of birds can do for growing membership, bolstering fundraising, and guiding land protection.

**11:15 Effective Dashboards: Keeping an Eye on What Matters**

*David Calle and Deb Nett, Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust*

An introduction to a simple 5-step process for creating an effective dashboard that provides an at-a-glance view of your land trust's progress against goals and where to take action.

**12:15 – 1:15pm Lunch**

**1:30 Round table discussion – Select the peer discussion topic that interests you when you register, or suggest another topic to be posted at the conference. Point people are noted in parentheses.**

- Fundraising: Bring your appeal letters to swap ideas and discuss what works (*Mindy Petersen*)
- Financial management: Discuss your questions, tools, and tips with peers (*Dana Chabot*)
- Wetlands: Wisconsin land trusts have identified wetlands as a primary conservation priority. How is your land trust addressing this priority? What tools, training, or advice would help you achieve your goals? (*Katie Beilfuss*)
- Easement provisions: Share your easement language and bring your questions about provisions (*Rick Remington*)
- Land management: Discuss tools you use to plan and budget for fee land management (*Chris Kirkpatrick*)

**2:45 Get your gear to go outside**

**3:00 – 5:00 Tour the La Crosse River Conservancy**

**5:00 Free time! Lumber Jack's Saloon is open**

*Dinner is on your own. We will provide suggestions for nearby restaurants.*

**Saturday, March 10**

*Breakfast is included with lodging for those staying at Stoney Creek Hotel.*

**8:30 The Future of State Conservation Funding**

*Chris Danou and Mike Carlson, Gathering Waters*

With the current authorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program to expire in 2020, the future of funding for land conservation is on all of our minds. This interactive workshop will explore strategies for the land trust community and partners to advocate for reliable, sustainable state funding.

**11:45 Adjourn**