ADVOCACY UPDATE

TEAM

PROTECTING LAND A WATER

Wisconsir

Nature

Guide

In June 2021, Wisconsin's Legislature voted to renew the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program for four years at \$33 million per year. This outcome is short of the 10-year renewal we had hoped for, but it's still an important win for Wisconsin.

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is a vital source of state funding for land and water protection. The program helps land trusts and communities conserve working forests, natural areas, and wildlife habitat. It supports the creation of parks, trails, and boat landings so people can enjoy nature.

Team Knowles Nelson could not have done this without you.

We want to thank everyone who took the time to contact their elected officials-writing emails, creating postcards, and calling lawmakers to let them know land and water protection is important. Because of your commitment to protecting land and water in Wisconsin, you helped produce positive results-even in a difficult political climate.

From hunters to birders, bikers to prairie conservationists, foresters to paddlers, and from parks advocates to wilderness buffs, the collective effort of Team Knowles Nelson shows that we can always find ways to work together toward a common goal.

We hope you take some time to get outside and enjoy the places you've worked so hard to protect.

Check for updates about Wisconsin Land Trust Days at HaveFunOutside.org





Request a Wisconsin Nature Guide and enter to win a YETI Cooler. Details at HaveFunOutside.org



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MEET THE

2021 LAND CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS

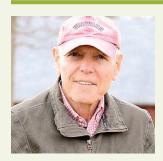
Gathering Waters is delighted to announce the 2021 Land Conservation Leadership Award Winners. Awards will be presented at local events.

CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Don Pluemer of Monfort has spent thousands of hours improving nearly 18 miles of cold-water streams and trout habitat in southwest Wisconsin. When Don joined Trout Unlimited 17 years ago, he learned about the serious threats facing these fragile ecosystems, including erosion, run off, and warming water temperatures. Don was determined to do his part alongside fellow volunteers with the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Don's dedication to improving the health of these streams and the surrounding landscape has created a brighter future for these priceless natural resources in the Driftless Area.



ROD NILSESTUEN AWARD FOR WORKING LANDS PRESERVATION



John Gehl of Hartland has long understood that soil depletion is a key factor affecting the profitability of Wisconsin family farms. His passion to protect these lands from development and improve soil health led him to start the Faye Gehl Conservation Foundation to promote land conservation and regenerative agriculture. Since the early 1990s, the Faye Gehl Conservation Foundation, along with Tall Pines Conservancy and other conservation partners, has permanently protected farms and worked to restore healthy soils in the Lake Country area in southeast Wisconsin.

HAROLD "BUD" JORDAHL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Susan Foote-Martin and Mark Martin of Arlington are lifelong conservationists whose passion and tireless commitment have positively impacted Wisconsin. Working for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Susan helped create the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail while Mark helped preserve thousands of acres of habitat through the State Natural Areas Program. Together, along with their efforts with the Madison Audubon Society, they have protected 2,700 acres across south-central Wisconsin.



As resident managers of Madison Audubon's Goose Pond Sanctuary, they've inspired dozens of interns and volunteers. Mark and Susan's conservation legacy will last for generations.

HAROLD "BUD" JORDAHL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Tom Eddy of Green Lake has been instrumental in conserving the natural resources in his community. As a founding member of Green Lake Conservancy, with a background in biology and botany, Tom's expertise helped the organization prioritize the protection of land with high conservation value. In 2018, Tom played an integral role in the purchase of Tichora Conservancy, one of the last remaining natural areas on Green Lake's shoreline. Tom's love of conservation and education has inspired hundreds of students and community members.

LAND LEGACY AWARD

The Paul E. Stry Foundation of La Crosse generously supports Mississippi Valley Conservancy's mission to protect land and water resources around La Crosse and across the Driftless Area. For nearly 25 years, the quiet, consistent philanthropy of the Paul E. Stry Foundation has helped numerous community organizations, has played a key role in saving and restoring 1,500 acres of prairies, bluffs, and other important lands along the Mississippi River, and has educated local citizens about conservation in the region.







Land Trust Days are a wonderful time to get outside and enjoy all the natural and protected areas Wisconsin has to offer.

DISCOVER AND EXPLORE PROTECTED PLACES

👔 Enjoy self-guided hikes through Wisconsin's forests and prairies. 🔆 Paddle along natural lakeshores. Soak in the scenic beauty from the bluffs of the Mississippi River to the shores of the Great Lakes. 🐥 Find places to visit at gatheringwaters.org/Places21.

GET INVOLVED WITH ACTIVITIES

With over 30 events to choose from, there's something for everyone. Bike through farm country. Take the kids 쓚 on a nature-based scavenger hunt or visit a fishing park. 🙀 Take a hike and learn more about natural areas in your community. Visit HaveFunOutside.org for a complete list of events.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE WHILE YOU #HAVEFUNOUTSIDE

Build a segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. 🚔 Volunteer to collect seeds or remove invasive plants. 👹 Add your discoveries to citizen science projects. 🕼 Share your #HaveFunOutside photos on Facebook and Instagram.





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Alliant

Energy





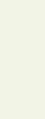
Stafford Rosenbaum

Attorneys





PLANYOUR gather WISCONSIN gathering waters wisconsin's alliance for land trusts $\left(O \right)$ LAND TRUST DAYS ADVENTURE



#HaveFunOutside and make this August and September a time to remember. Check out all the events at HaveFunOutside.org. Find other protected places to visit at gatheringwaters.org/Places21. Always confirm the details with the host before the event. J. **Reconnect: Weeding and** Wine Stewardship Event -Mindfulness Walk

August 4 Sheboygan | Willow Creek Preserve Host: Glacial Lakes Conservancy

Spend an evening practicing mindfulness in nature, taking the time to relax and become deeply aware of your surroundings. Sturdy shoes required. \$



Explore The Holmboe Forest Self-Guided | On Your Own Rhinelander

Protected by: Northwoods Land Trust Explore 32 acres of old-growth hemlock, pine forest, hiking trails, and the natural Pelican River shoreline. The forest is open to public exploration on foot.



Pollinator Walk August 8

Sheboygan | Bella Terra Host: Glacial Lakes Conservancy

Enjoy a prairie walk with monarch butterflies, birds, blooms, and other pollinators. All ages welcome. \$

LEARN

Book Signing: Shoreline at the Edge: Door County's **Lakeside Forests and** Wetlands

August 10th | August 17th Egg Harbor | Juddville Host: Door County Land Trust

Join photographer Paul Lurie and authors Steven Leonard and Cinnamon Rossman as they share historical, ecological, and scientific details that will deepen your appreciation for the Door Peninsula, its islands, and surrounding waters. The book will stir your imagination and passion to protect this remarkable wilderness from the threats of climate change.



Parts 1 and 2 August 11 | September 8

Cross Plains | SwampLovers Preserve Host: Ice Age Trail Alliance

Have fun and help native wildflowers and critical pollinators by removing invasive plants. You'll be guided by experts. The Ice Age Trail Alliance will provide light refreshments and snacks (including wine).



13th Annual Ride to the Barns August 14 Hartford

Host: Tall Pines Conservancy

Bike through the rolling farmland of "Lake Country." Benefit the work of Tall Pines Conservancy. Bikers must wear helmets, sign a waiver, and register in advance. \$

LEARN

Family Day at Helen Rohner Children's Fishing Park August 14

Williams Bay Host: Geneva Lake Conservancy Attend a family-friendly butterfly event! Butterflies are an incredible spectacle. Learn more about them from The Butterfly Man. You won't want to miss this.



Explore Kangaroo Lake Nature Preserve Self-Guided | On Your Own

Baileys Harbor Protected by: Door County Land Trust Enjoy a self-guided tour. Feel the

temperature changes as you hike through the boreal forest, cedar swamp land, and upland hardwood forest in Door County.

Canoeing & Kayaking Basics August 14 La Crosse

Host: Mississippi Valley Conservancy

Attend a live demonstration and learn how to paddle safely. Expert presenters will compare kayaks and canoes. Guests watch from the shore.



Community Day at Erickson Conservation Area August 14

Argyle | Erickson Conservation Area Host: Driftless Area Land Conservancy

Tour the Erickson Conservation Area, a 220-acre wetland and prairie preserve. End the tour with pizza and ice cream from local businesses.



Explore Engelwood Preserve Self-Guided | On Your Own Osceola

Host: Standing Cedars Community Land Conservancy

Explore this 1,100-acre preserve on the Lower St. Croix River, including deep, wooded ravines, and a rare native prairie.

VOLUNTEER

Trail Clearing – Part 1 and 2 August 14 | September 11

Racine | Tabor Woods and Trout Ponds Host: Caledonia Conservancy

Volunteer to help keep the trails in tip-top condition. Dress for working outdoors.



Explore Yawkey Forest Reserve Self-Guided | On Your Own Hazelhurst

Protected by: Northwoods Land Trust

Paddle Lake Katherine's natural shoreline. Stop for a picnic on Tigertail Point. For more adventure, visit the Bearskin Trail.

Beginner Plant and Insect Identification Hike

August 15 Luck | Ice Age Trail Trade River Segment Host: Landmark Conservancy

Explore the trail and identify plants and insects on the summer-blooming prairie and unique glacier-shaped landscape.



Mission Lake Adventure August 21 Hatley

Host: North Central Conservancy Trust Explore a wealth of nature at Mission Lake. Paddle, swim, or just enjoy the scenery. You'll want to visit again for sure.



A Full Moon Awareness Event: "Pause Right Now" August 22

Milwaukee Hosts: River Revitalization Foundation | Milwaukee River Greenway Artists in

Residence Experience a sound and space awareness event under a full moon. Enjoy meditative audio sounds from Donges Bay Gorge recorded by filmmakers, Laj Waghray

and Lucien Jung. The event emphasizes receptiveness, illumination, and listening.

VOLUNTEER

Help Build the Ice Age Trail -Part 1 and 2 August 25 | September 15 Ringle | Dousman Host: Ice Age Trail Alliance

Volunteer to build the Ice Age Trail including boardwalks and stone work. Registration required.

SPECIAL EVENT!

Town of Dunn Food Cart Night August 26 Madison

Host: Groundswell Conservancy

Join Groundswell Conservancy and hosts Carole and Don Schmidt for an evening on the land. Purchase your food and settle in to enjoy the picturesque prairie. Then walk the trails through the incredible restored landscape.



Exhibition and Reception for "Small Nature" Photo Contest August 26

Williams Bay Host: Geneva Lake Conservancy

Attend the exhibition and reception for winners of the "Small Nature" photo contest.

SPECIAL EVENT!

The Mane Event August 28

Racine

Host: Caledonia Conservancy

Enjoy a scavenger hunt on horseback. Ride through beautiful, marked country trails. End the day with a raffle. \$ to ride.

LEARN

Daydreams from Yesterday August 28

Milwaukee Host: River Revitalization Foundation | Jayce Kolinski

Treat yourself to an outdoor screening of an urban nature documentary that reimagines our relationship to the natural world by exploring the visions of the people who shaped it.

SPECIAL EVENT!

Don't Cha Know: It's Charlie **Berens Comedy Show** September 9 **River Falls**

Host: Kinnickinnic River Land Trust

Enjoy a night of comedy with the "Voice" of Wisconsin as Charlie Berens highlights our unique mannerisms, language, and culture. The show is appropriate for all.



Mumford Preserve **Interpretive Hike** September 11 Hogarty

Host: North Central Conservancy Trust

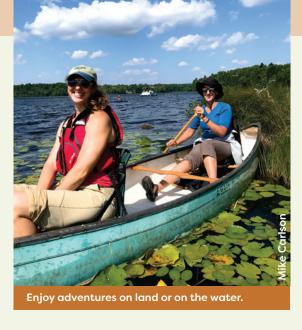
Explore the flora and fauna on 160 acres of forest and wetland near The Three Rolls of the Eau Claire River.



Southwest Wisconsin **Restoration Tour** September 11

From Soldiers Grove to Richland Center Host: The Prairie Enthusiasts-Southwest Chapter

Pack your lunch and spend a day visiting four restored private properties. You'll see restored cars, restored oak savannas, goat prairies, and bluff prairies.





The Basics of Forest Ecology: From the Atmosphere to the Soil, and Everything in Between September 12 Mellen | Tyler Forks Community Forest

Host: Landmark Conservancy Discover the diversity of trees and forest

communities in this 590-acre forest.



Grandparents & Grandchildren Hike September 12

Sheboygan | Willow Creek Preserve Host: Glacial Lakes Conservancy

Celebrate Grandparents Day with an interactive hike. Enjoy family and laughter as you learn about wildlife. \$

SPECIAL EVENT!

Treasures of Oz 2021 Eco Tour September 13 | September 18

Ozaukee County Nature Preserves Host: Ozaukee Washington Land Trust Visit Ozaukee County nature preserves all week. Find key terms at kiosks and enter to win prizes. Join OWLT for an estate sale at Forest Beach Migratory Preserve.

Explore and Celebrate Kemper's Woods September 18 **Chippewa Falls**

Host: Chippewa County Land Conservancy

Take an easy hike through an 80-acre upland forest, with scenic views, a scavenger hunt for kids, and refreshments afterwards.



Hike Three Springs Nature Preserve Self-Guided | On Your Own

Sister Bay Protected by: Door County Land Trust

Enjoy the 1.75-mile trail with scenic overlooks that winds through fields and forest. This wetland is part of 17,000 acres of relatively wild land.



SPECIAL EVENT!

Community Rivers Program Watershed Bus Tour September 18 Milwaukee River Watershed

Host: Ozaukee Washington Land Trust Tour a wastewater treatment facility, a

dairy farm, Bratt Woods Preserve, and enjoy lunch! Registration required.



Explore Goose Pond Sanctuary Self-Guided | On Your Own Arlington

Protected by: Madison Audubon Discover a unique collection of restored

and protected landscapes that are a haven for birds, rare plants, insects, and more. Visit during migration for a spectacle of migrating waterfowl and shorebirds.



Outdoor Yoga and Stretching Three Dates: September 20, 21, and 25 Milwaukee | RRF's Outdoor Yoga Pad Host: River Revitalization Foundation Celebrate the Milwaukee Greenway.

Beaver Creek Hemlocks

Fall Hike September 24 **Park Falls** Host: Northwoods Land Trust

Enjoy a three-mile hike through an

old-growth hemlock forest. Trail is steep in places. Limited to 15. Registration required.



Bird Banding September 25 Sheboygan | Willow Creek Preserve Host: Glacial Lakes Conservancy

Watch bird-banding expert Bill Volkert

Pairings on the Preserve September 25

catch and band birds. \$

Newberg Host: Ozaukee Washington Land Trust

Tour a unique private farm preserve. Enjoy wines from Cedar Creek Winery paired with small plate delicacies from The Norbert. Registration required. \$



Harvest at Hackmatack September 25

Hosts: Kettle Moraine Land Trust and Geneva Lake Conservancy

gloves, sun hat, and refillable water bottle.

SPECIAL EVENT!

2nd Annual Road Rally and Picnic October 2 Various Preserves in Williams Bay

and Lake Geneva Host: Geneva Lake Conservancy

Drive through the country and visit nature preserves. Get out and hike if you'd like. End the day with a catered picnic.

CHECK OUT these seasonal events and year-round hiking challenges.

Trail Trek Challenge Year-Round

La Crosse area - Various Locations Host: Mississippi Valley Conservancy

Enjoy the beauty of the Driftless and hike at least five trails on properties protected by MVC for a chance to win prize drawings.

HIKE15 Challenge

Now through October 17, 2021 **Registration Deadline September 1 Milwaukee Area**

Hosts: River Revitalization Foundation Milwaukee River Greenway Coalition

Celebrate 15 years of land protection along the Milwaukee River by hiking 15 miles on the Greenway. Complete the course and receive a patch.

Visit Helen Rohner Children's Fishing Park Williams Bay

Host: Geneva Lake Conservancy Learn about nature. There's always something happening at the fishing park, from fishing lessons to nature classes. Check out all the action at HaveFunOutside.org



Find Mr. T May 1 to October 31 Racine | Tabor Woods Host: Caledonia Conservancy

Find Mr. T, a Great Horned Owl carving by Bob Younger. Mr. T will be sitting high in a tree somewhere along the trails in Tabor Woods. Take a photo with him, and send it in for a chance to receive a \$10 coupon from Culver's!

CELEBRATE

25th Anniversary Celebration October 9 Sheboygan Host: Glacial Lakes Conservancy

Enjoy guided hikes and naturalist presentations as we celebrate the past, present, and future



Explore Wilton Hemlocks Self-Guided | On Your Own Wilton

Protected by: Mississippi Valley Conservancy

Explore this 89-acre property where 150-year-old hemlocks tower above nearly a half-mile stretch of the Kickapoo River. Hemlock relicts are considered an imperiled habitat worldwide.



Near Genoa City

Collect seeds at the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge. Wear long pants, long sleeves, and sturdy boots. Bring work