

## Request a free Wisconsin Nature Guide!

Identify many common plants, animals, and other wildlife as you explore Wisconsin's natural places. We'll send you a copy of the guide in the mail at no cost when you complete a form at: [bit.ly/NatureGuideRequest](http://bit.ly/NatureGuideRequest)



Gathering Waters creates tools like this to help you enjoy natural places. As a nonprofit environmental organization, we help people like you learn more about how to protect and enjoy Wisconsin's land, water, and wildlife.



## Enter to win YETI prizes!

Did you attend an event? Visit a land trust property on your own? When you do, you can enter the drawing to win a cool prize.

Let us know about your experience or share a photo at: [bit.ly/GWYETI23](http://bit.ly/GWYETI23)

Enter a drawing for one of five YETI prizes, including a grand prize of a YETI cooler!



## Stand up for nature with Team Knowles Nelson.

From hunters to birders, bikers to paddlers, prairie conservationists to foresters, the collective advocacy efforts of Team Knowles Nelson show elected officials that protecting Wisconsin's land, water, and wildlife is important.

You can join thousands of individuals and dozens of organizations committed to ensuring that Wisconsin funds vital land and water conservation efforts. Help advocate for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program because it's Wisconsin's best land and water conservation program.

Learn how you can make your voice heard at [KnowlesNelson.org](http://KnowlesNelson.org).

By requesting a Wisconsin Nature Guide, entering the YETI drawing, or joining Team Knowles Nelson, you give Gathering Waters permission to contact you in the future with updates.



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## MEET THE 2023 LAND CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS

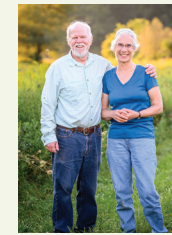
Gathering Waters is pleased to announce the winners of the 2023 Land Conservation Leadership Awards! Each award winner was nominated based on their contribution to the conservation community. Gathering Waters will present the awards to the winners at local events throughout the year.



**Bill O'Connor** – Harold "Bud" Jordahl Lifetime Achievement Award  
Bill has played a key role in Wisconsin's land trust movement for more than 40 years. As a lawyer, Bill helped organize and incorporate several of the state's land trusts. He has provided legal services to the land trust community and scores of landowners over the past several decades.



**Thomas Meyer** – Harold "Bud" Jordahl Lifetime Achievement Award  
Recently retired from a 38-year career with the Wisconsin DNR, Thomas served as the longest tenured State Natural Areas staff member to date. He is perhaps best known for his photography, writing, and collaboration with PBS-Wisconsin, and as a field trip guide for the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin.



**Stephen and Susan Carpenter** – Land Legacy Award  
Stephen and Susan Carpenter are partners in life and in conservation. Both have devoted their careers to land protection and are lifelong advocates of good land stewardship. Outside of their professional accomplishments, they work to preserve and restore their land along the Blue River in the Driftless Area.



**Marilyn Houck** – Working Lands Preservation Award  
Marilyn and her late husband, Kent, spent decades caring for their 993-acre farm near Richland Center. They raised llamas on lush pastures and sustainably farmed and forested their land, which is now protected by a conservation easement through Mississippi Valley Conservancy.



**Tom Stolp** – Land Trust Professional of the Year  
As executive director of Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, Tom was instrumental in conserving the Cedar Gorge Clay Bluffs, a 134-acre preserve in Port Washington. He successfully led OWLT to rally widespread public support for the project, raise additional funds, and call on elected officials to permanently protect the preserve.



**Nancy McGill** – Land Trust Volunteer of the Year  
Nancy has volunteered with Groundswell Conservancy for more than 10 years, logging over 2,000 hours of time in support of land conservation. She has supported the land trust through two successful rounds of applying for national accreditation and worked on countless other projects to advance Groundswell's mission.

Learn more about the award winners and their impact on conservation at [gatheringwaters.org/awards23](http://gatheringwaters.org/awards23).



## crosscurrents

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Welcome to 2023 Wisconsin Land Trust Days, an annual celebration of land protection featuring events hosted by land trusts in July, August, and September!



**ATTEND AN EVENT**  
Choose from 45  
**LAND TRUST DAYS EVENTS**  
featured inside

**EXPLORE A SPECIAL PLACE**  
Visit one of our favorite protected  
properties listed at  
[GatheringWaters.org/Places](http://GatheringWaters.org/Places)

**MAKE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE**  
Find ideas for independent  
adventures at  
[GatheringWaters.org/Adventures](http://GatheringWaters.org/Adventures)



Celebrate land trusts and the important work they do protecting Wisconsin's land, water, and wildlife. There's something for everyone at the 6th Annual Wisconsin Land Trust Days!

## DISCOVER AND EXPLORE PROTECTED PLACES

- Hike Wisconsin's prairies, forests, and bluffs
- Cycle through beautiful countryside
- Help build part of the historic Ice Age National Scenic Trail
- Paddle on Wisconsin lakes and streams
- Search for plants and pollinators
- Capture nature with your camera or sketchbook
- Forage for mushrooms
- Soothe your soul with forest bathing and outdoor yoga
- Collect native prairie seeds
- Learn about astronomy while stargazing, and more.

This Land Trust Days calendar is sent to you, courtesy of:



Presented by:



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# PLAN YOUR WISCONSIN LAND TRUST DAYS ADVENTURE

gathering waters  
wisconsin's alliance  
for land trusts

#HaveFunOutside and make this July, August, and September a time to remember. Find more information about all of the events at [HaveFunOutside.org](https://www.havefunoutside.org). Always confirm the details with the host before the event.



SPECIAL EVENT!

**Powell Spring Conservancy Open House**  
Green Lake Conservancy  
Ripon  
July 1

The first opportunity for the general public to visit Powell Spring Conservancy. Board members will show this special property and answer questions.

**Family Day at Helen Rohner Children's Fishing Park**  
Geneva Lake Conservancy  
Williams Bay  
July 3

Family Day at the park includes a bioblitz photo capture and the opening of the small nature photo contest.

**9th Annual Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program (OWPP) Paddle**  
Tall Pines Conservancy  
Hartland  
July 8

A morning paddle on North Lake, free lunch, and a nature walk at Oconomowoc River Conservancy Park.



**Geology and Paddling on the Gile Flowage**  
Northwoods Land Trust  
Montreal  
July 11

Discover the Gile Flowage, a paddling gem in Iron County, while learning about ecology, natural history, and geology.



**Protect & Preserve Hike at Sauk Creek Nature Preserve**  
Ozaukee Washington Land Trust  
Port Washington  
July 14

A Port Washington Fish Days event, including a guided tour of Sauk Creek Nature Preserve, OWLT's first conservation property.

**Scenic Farm Summer Fundraiser**  
Geneva Lake Conservancy  
Lyons  
July 15

Celebrate the newest conservation easement property protecting a beautiful farm. Enjoy property tours, dinner, and garden auction.

**Nature Journaling at Manitou Maples**  
Glacial Lakes Conservancy  
Manitowoc  
July 15

Improve your appreciation of different species through field sketching, the practice of drawing and note-taking in response to nature.

SPECIAL EVENT!

**Trailtessa 2023: Be BRIGHT**  
Ice Age Trail Alliance  
Janesville  
July 15

Let your heart be bright, delighting in a classic summer night: a late-setting sun, cricket songs, and pulsing fireflies on a guided evening hike with light refreshments for women and girls.

**Bat Ecology Cave Tours**  
Mississippi Valley Conservancy  
Wauzeka  
July 22

Learn about the beneficial role of bats and the importance of protecting their native habitats on a guided cave tour at Kickapoo Caverns.



SPECIAL EVENT!

**Conservation Celebration**  
Waukesha County Land Conservancy  
Eagle  
July 22

An evening celebrating 42 more acres protected in Waukesha County with "walk-tails" and tours, a farm to table meal, live music, and silent auction.

**Goose Pond Prairies**  
Madison Audubon  
Arlington  
July 29

A mostly sitting tour of Goose Pond Sanctuary's restored mesic prairies via a touring wagon pulled by a truck with frequent stops to allow folks to get out and explore.



SPECIAL EVENT!

**Sea Kayaking Along the Brownstone Trail**  
Landmark Conservancy  
Bayfield  
August 2

A three-hour sea kayaking trip on Lake Superior! Learn about shipwrecks, local history, and the Brownstone Trail that runs along the shore.

**Education Day at White River County Park**  
Geneva Lake Conservancy  
Lake Geneva  
August 4

A family-friendly event including a raptor presentation at White River County Park.



VOLUNTEER

**Trailbuilding: Iola Ski Hill Segment**  
Ice Age Trail Alliance  
Iola  
August 9-13

Join the Mobile Skills Crew to help reroute the Iola Ski Hill Segment of the Ice Age Trail away from ski trails and onto its own path. Registration required.



SPECIAL EVENT!

**15th Annual Ride to the Barns**  
Tall Pines Conservancy  
Hartford  
August 12

A popular fundraising cycling ride through Lake Country and rolling farmland with rest stops at community farms serving food. Post-ride lunch buffet with beer and music. Limited space.



**Pollinator Walk at Sisters of St. Agnes**  
Glacial Lakes Conservancy  
Fond du Lac  
August 12

Learn about the importance of pollinator diversity and prairie plants on a hike led by a DNR expert.

**Land Management Tour at Spring Valley Tract**  
Driftless Area Land Conservancy  
Belleville  
August 12

Tour a Driftless nature preserve to see the difference just a few years of land management can make.

**Hike at Hauge Historic District Park**  
Groundswell Conservancy  
County Horeb  
August 12

Explore the second highest public park observation point in Dane County, with several miles of mowed hiking trails and a spectacular view of Blue Mound.

**Tower Nibiwan Conservation Area Bog Hike**  
Northwoods Land Trust  
Sugar Camp  
August 15

Investigate plants that thrive in a unique wetland area called a bog during this visit to one of NWLT's newest properties.



**Prairie Pollinators Walk**  
Mississippi Valley Conservancy  
La Crosse  
August 19

Experience the beauty of the La Crosse bluffs while learning about the essential roles of wildflowers and pollinators.

**Suszko Ridge Interpretive Hike**  
North Central Conservancy Trust  
Wautoma  
August 19

An interpretive hike at Suszko Ridge to learn about how the property was protected and habitat restored.

**Forest Bathing at Hunner Preserve**  
Glacial Lakes Conservancy  
Denmark  
August 20

Take your appreciation for nature to a new level by learning the wonders of forest bathing during a guided hike.

**Small Nature Photo Contest Reception**  
Geneva Lake Conservancy  
Williams Bay  
August 24

Celebrate those who turned in nature contest photos with a reception at Green Grocer.

**Mill House Native Plant Preserve Dedication**  
Geneva Lake Conservancy  
Fontana  
August 25

Take a tour through a native preserve with cocktails and appetizers.



SPECIAL EVENT!

**2023 Mane Event**  
Caledonia Conservancy  
Racine  
August 26

Ride beautiful, marked country trails on horseback and locate scavenger hunt items along the way, or ride a timed obstacle course in an enclosed grass arena. Registration required.

**Monarch Madness**  
The Ridges Sanctuary  
Baileys Harbor  
August 26

This Annual Monarch Madness event helps the international citizen monitoring program by tagging monarchs before they head out on their long journey to Mexico.

**Sunset Yoga at Willow Creek Preserve**  
Glacial Lakes Conservancy  
Sheboygan  
August 30

A peaceful, sunset yoga session out in the beauty of nature.



VOLUNTEER

**Trailbuilding: Sturgeon Bay Segment**  
Ice Age Trail Alliance  
Sturgeon Bay  
September 6-10

Join the Mobile Skills Crew to help to reroute the Ice Age Trail to a dedicated path leading to the Eastern Terminus, which enjoys a scenic spot overlooking Green Bay. Registration required.

**Guided Nature Walk**  
Geneva Lake Conservancy  
Rochester  
September 8

Enjoy a beautiful guided nature walk at the Wallace E. Zabler Nature Preserve.

**Paddle the Preserves**  
Ozaukee Washington Land Trust  
West Bend  
September 9

Paddle the preserves along the Milwaukee River on a day-long river adventure with stopping points for guided, leisurely hikes, and meal breaks.

**Cassville Mushroom Foray**  
Mississippi Valley Conservancy  
Cassville  
September 9

A morning of foraging for wild mushrooms in the Mississippi River Valley with guidance from members of the UW-La Crosse Mycology Club.

**Annual Fundraiser at Sisters of St. Agnes**  
Glacial Lakes Conservancy  
Fond du Lac  
September 9

A day full of activities including a presentation of the biodiversity crisis, raffles, activity tables, artists painting on the trails, and a guided hike.

**Land Trust Days with The Prairie Enthusiasts**  
Eagle  
September 10

Celebrate the work of land trusts with lunch, a program, and a hike.

**Monarch Talk**  
Cedar Lakes  
Conservation Foundation  
West Bend  
September 14

Part of CLCF's 2023 Nature Series, a presentation on Monarch butterflies.

**Astronomy at Windway**  
Glacial Lakes Conservancy  
Sheboygan  
September 15

Stargazing at a private conservation easement with snacks and drinks.

**Fungi at Fitzsimmons**  
Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy  
Franklin  
September 16

Discover the mushrooms and other fungi at Fitzsimmons Woods with the Wisconsin Mycological Society.



SPECIAL EVENT!

**Trailtessa: Be CURIOUS**  
Ice Age Trail Alliance  
Cross Plains  
September 16

Women and girls work together on a habitat improvement project, collecting seeds at a biodiversity hotspot, SwampLovers Preserve.

VOLUNTEER

**Workday at White River County Park**  
Geneva Lake Conservancy  
Lake Geneva  
September 22

Help remove invasive species at the park while making and planting seed bombs.

Explore and learn about protected places.



Landmark Conservancy



VOLUNTEER

**National Public Lands Day Clean Up**

Baird Creek Preservation Foundation  
Green Bay  
September 23  
A volunteer day in honor of National Public Lands Day.

**Fall Prairies at Faville Grove**  
Madison Audubon  
Lake Mills  
September 24

Immerse yourself in the textures, colors, sounds, and smells of fall at Faville Grove.

VOLUNTEER

**Trailbuilding: Rib Lake Segment**  
Ice Age Trail Alliance  
Rib Lake  
September 26 - October 1

Join the Mobile Skills Crew to reconnect the Rib Lake Segment of the Ice Age Trail, plus a grand opening and celebratory hike! Registration required.

SPECIAL EVENT!

**2023 Annual Harvest Dinner**  
North Central Conservancy Trust  
Stevens Point  
September 28

Celebrate conservation in Central Wisconsin with an evening of presentations, live music, silent auction and raffle, local food, and friends.

**Two Towers Trail at Minocqua Winter Park**  
Northwoods Land Trust  
Minocqua  
September 29

Enjoy scenic fall color overlooks and panoramic views during this 3-mile on-trail hike at Minocqua Winter Park.

VOLUNTEER

**Hackmatack Seed Collection**  
Geneva Lake Conservancy  
Genoa City  
September 30

Join GLC and Kettle Moraine Land Trust to pick seeds at Wisconsin's Hackmatack Turner Tract Preserve.

SPECIAL EVENT!

**Fall Festival**  
Caledonia Conservancy  
Racine  
September 30

Fun family activities like horseback rides, a bouncy house, pumpkin decorating, kids crafts, live music, plus a pie sale, and potluck dinner.



Invite your friends and have fun outside.

CHECK OUT these seasonal and year-round, nature-based events.

**Trail Trek Challenge**  
Mississippi Valley Conservancy  
SW Wisconsin  
Year-Round

A free year-round hike/walk program on 17 designated trails in Wisconsin's Driftless Area. Challenge yourself to hike at least five and learn what makes these places so valuable for everyone.

**Bike-n-Hike | Ride-n-Stride**  
Ozaukee Washington Land Trust  
Ozaukee and Washington Counties

Enjoy the beauty of nature at your own pace via bike, car, or canoe, with self-guided tours connecting the preserves via bicycle trails, road routes, and waterways.

**Sanctuary Guided Hikes**  
The Ridges Sanctuary  
Baileys Harbor  
Mon - Sat, July & August

Walk on rustic trails with a naturalist and learn about the biologically diverse habitats and the historic Upper Range Light.

**Explore the Ice Age National Scenic Trail**  
Year-Round

This natural classroom winds throughout Wisconsin. The Ice Age Trail Alliance has family-friendly resources to enhance your hike, including games and activities for all ages.

**Visit Helen Rohner Children's Fishing Park**  
Geneva Lake Conservancy  
Williams Bay  
Year-Round

There's always something happening at the fishing park, from fishing lessons to nature classes.

ENTER TO WIN A YETI COOLER!  
at  
[bit.ly/GWYETI23](https://bit.ly/GWYETI23)  
(Color may vary)

