

LAND TRUST DAYS FEATURED DESTINATION

The Driftless Trail is an ongoing project of Driftless Area Land Conservancy with a goal of connecting three state parks in Iowa County through a 50-mile hiking loop. Four trail segments are currently open: one north of Dodgeville, one north of Ridgeway, and two on the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation's Taliesin estate south of Spring Green. Visit www.driftlessconservancy.org/driftless-trail for more details, maps, and guides.

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



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 special places.

Enter to win YETI prizes!

Did you attend an event? Visit a land trust property on your own? Let us know about your experience or share a photo at: bit.ly/GWYETI24

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



Ask your legislators to be champions for nature.

Wisconsin's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is how we protect our land and water. Knowles-Nelson provides critical funding for land protection, trails, campgrounds, and more.

But funding for Knowles-Nelson is about to run out unless legislators renew the program in the next state budget.

Speak up and ask your legislators to champion renewed funding for Knowles-Nelson. It only takes a minute and every voice counts!

Action.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.

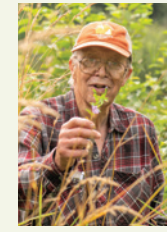


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MEET THE 2024 LAND CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Gathering Waters is pleased to announce the winners of the 2024 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.



Dr. Robert (Bob) Freckmann – Harold "Bud" Jordahl Lifetime Achievement Award
Bob has been actively involved with North Central Conservancy Trust (NCCT) since the 1990s, supporting the land trust in its growth to serve eight counties and protect 5,000+ acres in Central Wisconsin. In 2010, Bob and his late wife Sally donated a conservation easement to NCCT on their 32-acre property. Bob had a nearly 55-year career at UW-Stevens Point. Although retired, he still frequents his desk at the 2nd largest herbarium in Wisconsin, which he started in 1968, now appropriately known as The Freckmann Herbarium.



Joseph (Joe) and Mary Hovel – Land Legacy Award
Joe and Mary Hovel have worked for decades to conserve and protect land in the Border Lakes region of Wisconsin, as well as in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and in Wisconsin's Central Sands region. They have raised public awareness of the importance of land conservation and served as watchdogs for land use. Their selfless, tireless, and savvy efforts have brought numerous conservation projects across the finish line, sometimes when funding and support were scarce.



Clint Miller – Working Lands Preservation Award
Clint Miller, the Central Midwest Regional Director of The Conservation Fund, has been instrumental in safeguarding the largest land conservation project in modern Wisconsin history—70,000 acres in northern Wisconsin called the Pelican River Forest. His unwavering leadership led to the successful completion of the project in January 2024, ensuring permanent protection while also maintaining sustainable forestry practices and ensuring public access.



Linda Mutschler – Land Trust Professional of the Year
Serving as Executive Director of Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation (CLCF) for eight years, Linda Mutschler's passion for land conservation has been evident in every aspect of her work. Under her guidance, CLCF expanded conserved acres from 2,400 to nearly 3,000 acres during a five-year period. This year marks CLCF's 50th anniversary. Thanks to Linda, along with CLCF's Board, donors, and volunteers, CLCF is in a strong position to continue advancing its mission for another 50 years and beyond.



Victor Illichmann – Land Trust Volunteer of the Year
Victor Illichmann began the intensive land management of Green-Rock Audubon Society (G-RAS) properties over 20 years ago. It started with just a borrowed tractor and brush mower. Over time, Victor shared his vision for what could be done to return the land to a state that would support native plants, birds, and insects. Good work achieves good results. Walking through the acres of restored properties, it is evident what Victor has accomplished.

Learn more about the award winners and their impact on conservation at gatheringwaters.org/awards

crosscurrents
A publication of Gathering Waters | Summer 2024

LAND TRUST DAYS
HAVE FUN OUTSIDE

Lindsay Knudsvig

crosscurrents

A publication of Gathering Waters
Volume 30 - Issue 2 | Summer 2024

Welcome to 2024 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

MAKE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE
Find ideas for independent
adventures at
GatheringWaters.org/Adventures

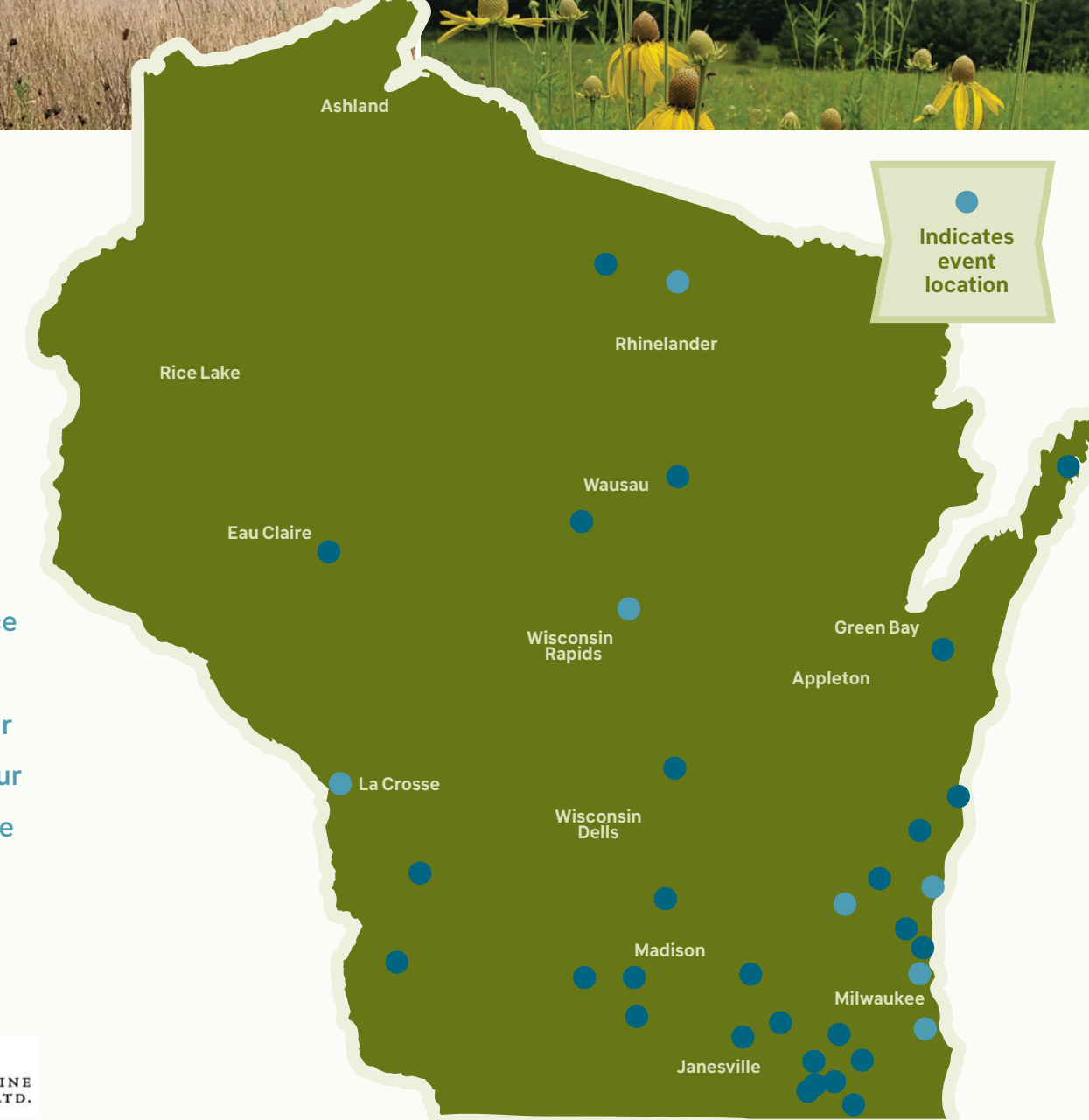


Celebrate land trusts and the important work they do protecting Wisconsin's land, water, and wildlife. There's something for everyone at the 7th Annual Wisconsin Land Trust Days!

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
- Learn about cave and bat ecology
- 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.

Family Day at Helen Rohner Children's Fishing Park

Geneva Lake Conservancy
Williams Bay, WI
July 5

Join the conservancy for a pollinator presentation during Family Day at the Children's Fishing Preserve.

Summer Insect Celebration

Kettle Moraine Land Trust
Elkhorn, WI
July 13

Discover and learn about local insects. Use an insect net and make a home for native bees to invite these friendly and important pollinators to your backyard.

Bat Ecology Cave Tours

Mississippi Valley Conservancy
Wauzeka, WI
July 13

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

Raptors in Conservation

Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation
West Bend, WI
July 14

Attend this Nature Series event for an interactive presentation featuring a bald eagle, hawk, owl, and falcon.

Lifetime Achievement Award Celebration

North Central Conservancy Trust
Stevens Point, WI
July 17

Celebrate the accomplishments of Dr. Bob Freckmann during an award ceremony to present the Harold "Bud" Jordahl Lifetime Achievement Award.

Butterfly Discovery Event

Landmark Conservancy
Fall Creek, WI
July 18

Walk through a native prairie in bloom, learn how to catch and release butterflies with a net, and tour a monarch caterpillar lab. This event is intended for adults.

Cocktails for Conservation Cruise

Ozaukee Washington Land Trust / River Revitalization Foundation
Port Washington, WI
July 18

Board a ticketed cruise on Lake Michigan and support land conservation. The Edelweiss boat will be docked in Port Washington for a short time this summer, so don't miss this limited time experience!

Photography Day

Geneva Lake Conservancy
Williams Bay, WI
July 19

Hone your skills at nature photography. Teens and adults are welcome. Use these photos to enter GLC's photo contest.

Buck Moon Celebration

Kettle Moraine Land Trust
Elkhorn, WI
July 21

Celebrate the rise of the Buck Moon with a campfire and story selections from the Matheson Memorial Library.

Summer Celebration

Geneva Lake Conservancy
Williams Bay, WI
July 25

Join GLC at Yerkes Observatory for a summer celebration with special guest speaker Doug Tallamy.

Summer Gathering

The Prairie Enthusiasts
Dane County
July 27

Enjoy prairies and savannas with hikes, learning, and socializing.

RRF 30 Year Celebration

River Revitalization Foundation / Ozaukee Washington Land Trust
Milwaukee, WI
July 30

Celebrate 30 years for the River Revitalization Foundation at Indeed Brewing Company. Connect with land trust staff and supporters. Stay for a short program and catered food.

Family Education Day

Geneva Lake Conservancy
Lake Geneva, WI
August 2

Bring your family to White River County Park for a raptor presentation. All ages are welcome.

Goose Pond Prairies

Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance
Arlington, WI
August 3

Join this mostly sitting tour of Goose Pond Sanctuary. A touring wagon pulled by a truck will take the group along the trails with frequent stops to get out and explore.

Tower Nibiwan Conservation

Northwoods Land Trust
Sugar Camp, WI
August 9

Explore glacially created wetlands in northern Wisconsin on this bog hike. Learn about plants and unique adaptations required to live in this environment.

16th Annual Ride to the Barns

Tall Pines Conservancy
Hartford, WI
August 10

Ride your bike to benefit farmland conservation in lake country. Choose from three different routes (30, 45 and 60 miles) with rest stops featuring food from local farms. The post-ride party features live music, local beer, and a buffet lunch.

Summer in the Sanctuary

The Ridges Sanctuary
Baileys Harbor, WI
August 14

Explore the Ridges Nature Center and Hidden Brook Boardwalk with nature-themed stations during this family-friendly event.

Trailbuilding: Ice Age Trail Plover River Segment

Ice Age Trail Alliance
Marathon County
August 14 - 18

This much-loved and well-traveled segment is ready for a few upgrades. Help build puncheon, solidify tread with granite boulders, and maintain the existing tread.

Tour of Baird Creek Watershed

Properties: The Birds, Bees & Butterflies
Baird Creek Preservation Foundation
Humbolt & Eaton Township
August 17

Tour two restored properties boasting native prairie. Board members will share how these properties came to be, how they were restored, and who calls them home.

Pollinator Walk at Willow Creek Preserve

Glacial Lakes Conservancy
Sheboygan, WI
August 17

Learn about the importance of pollinator diversity and prairie plants through this hike led by DNR expert Jay Watson.

Gardens & Gazing

Mississippi Valley Conservancy
La Crosse, WI
August 17

Take in the beauty of the La Crosse area bluffs on this ridgetop hike, followed by a garden tour and stargazing.

Cave of the Mounds Tour

Groundswell Conservancy
Blue Mounds, WI
August 18

Explore Cave of the Mounds with a free tour. Before touring the cave, learn how conservation plays a role in protecting this special place.

Sturgeon Moon Celebration

Kettle Moraine Land Trust
Elkhorn, WI
August 19

Celebrate the rise of the Sturgeon Moon with a campfire and story selections from the Matheson Memorial Library.

Trailtessa: Be CREATIVE - Bee Pollinator Helper

Ice Age Trail Alliance
Milton, WI
August 20

Ignite your artistic abilities to support pollinators in partnership with the Milton Public Library. Create clay decorative stones and paint a large-scale mural celebrating bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and fireflies. Open to young girls ages 9-18.

Small Nature Photo Contest Reception

Geneva Lake Conservancy
Williams Bay, WI
August 22

Celebrate the winners of GLC's photo contest at a reception at Green Grocer. Refreshments provided.

Field Trip at Anglin Family Nature Preserve

Geneva Lake Conservancy
Lake Geneva, WI
August 23

On this Natural Resources Foundation field trip, enjoy a history hike to view the Anglin Family Nature Preserve.

Mane Event

Caledonia Conservancy
Caledonia, WI
August 24

Search for scavenger hunt items on horseback. Ride your horse on marked trails through conservancy and private lands. Take a picture of items you find for raffle tickets.

Forest Bathing at Gooseville Creek Preserve

Glacial Lakes Conservancy
Adell, WI
August 24

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

Mumford Preserve Interpretive Hike

North Central Conservancy Trust
Hogarty, WI
August, 31

Learn about the glacial and geologic forces that shaped northeastern Marathon County during an interpretive hike at Mumford Preserve.

Autumn Gathering

Geneva Lake Conservancy
Williams Bay, WI
September 6

During this autumn gathering at Colman Woods, hear from special guest speaker, author Dan Egan.

Nature Journaling at Hunner Preserve

Glacial Lakes Conservancy
Denmark, WI
September 7

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

Mushroom Foray

Mississippi Valley Conservancy
Readstown, WI
September 7

Explore the fascinating world of fungi as knowledgeable mycologists guide participants on a hike through a wooded property.

Trailbuilding: Ice Age Trail Greenbush Segment

Ice Age Trail Alliance
Sheboygan County
September 11 - 15

Craft brand-new tread and create a new route for the Ice Age Trail south of Hwy 23, moving it from a paved multi-use trail to a beautiful landscape of deep kettles and big trees.

Oak Savanna Restoration Step-by-Step

Driftless Area Land Conservancy
Belleville, WI
September 14

Hike and learn at an oak savanna restoration in progress at Wild Oaks Preserve, a collaborative project of Driftless Area Land Conservancy and BadgerLand Foundation.

Fall Prairie Walk

Kettle Moraine Land Trust + Seno K/RLT
Burlington, WI
September 14

Stroll through the Seno Woodland Center's prairie restoration to learn about prairie ecology and efforts to preserve this incredible habitat.

Harvest Moon Celebration

Kettle Moraine Land Trust
East Troy, WI
September 17

Celebrate the rise of the Harvest Moon with a campfire and story selections from the Matheson Memorial Library.

Annual Harvest Dinner & Anniversary Celebration

North Central Conservancy Trust
Stevens Point, WI
September 19

Celebrate NCCT's 30th anniversary and conservation success in Central Wisconsin with live music, local food, silent auction, drinks, and friends.

Fall Nature Art

Kettle Moraine Land Trust
Whitewater, WI
September 21

Let the autumn season inspire you. Make leaf art, pressed leaf collages, leaf rubbings, and leaf pounding prints.

Driftless Trail — Land Trust Days Featured Destination



Mississippi Valley Conservancy's Kickapoo Caverns

Treasures of Oz Eco-Tour

Ozaukee Washington Land Trust / River Revitalization Foundation
Mequon, WI
September 21

Explore unique sites with docents and learn about natural features and local history. Turn in your "passport" for raffle tickets to win certificates to Ozaukee restaurants.

Nature Hike at Sidney Woodland Preserve

Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy
Glendale, WI
September 21

Join a guided tour of this little gem of a preserve, a dry-mesic upland woods that is a haven for plant communities.

Fall Prairies at Faville Grove

Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance
Lake Mills, WI
September 22

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

Virtual Program: Introduction to Seed Collecting

Kettle Moraine Land Trust
Online
September 25

Tune into this virtual program to learn about the process of collecting native plant seeds.

Seed Collecting at Price Park

Kettle Moraine Land Trust
Elkhorn, WI
September 27

Volunteer with partners at Walworth County Parks to collect native plant seeds and support habitat restoration efforts at the conservancy.

Hackmatack Seed Picking

Geneva Lake Conservancy + Kettle Moraine Land Trust
Genoa City, WI
September 28

Join land trust volunteers to collect seeds at the Hackmatack Turner Tract.

Hike the Heights at Minocqua Winter Park

Northwoods Land Trust
Minocqua, WI
September 30

Hike about three miles to visit the two highest points at the popular winter recreation facility and view the beginning of fall colors.

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



Conservation@Home
Geneva Lake Conservancy
An education and recognition program for homeowners for their earth-conscious choices in home landscape, as well as water conservation and protection efforts.



Small Nature Photo Contest
Geneva Lake Conservancy
Share your submissions for the Photo Contest through August 12th. All ages welcome. Cash prizes available.



Heritage Oak Contest
Geneva Lake Conservancy
Submit information about your oak tree for the most beautiful, oldest, or best story by October 1st.



Trail Trek Challenge
Mississippi Valley Conservancy
SW Wisconsin
A free year-round hike/walk program on 18 designated trails in Wisconsin's Driftless Area. Challenge yourself to hike at least five and learn what makes these places so valuable for everyone.



Trailbuilding with Ice Age Trail Alliance



Miranda Murphy

Betsy Freibury

Drake Hokanson

Barb Barzen

ENTER TO WIN A YETI COOLER!
at bit.ly/GWYETI24
(Color may vary)

