



**WI LAND+WATER**

# **70TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**CHULA VISTA, WISCONSIN DELLS, MARCH 1-3, 2023**



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*Celebrating the 70th anniversary of the annual WI Land+Water Conference is a significant milestone in the history of Wisconsin conservation. It highlights the dedication and commitment of individuals and organizations who have been working tirelessly for the past seven decades to protect and conserve the natural resources of Wisconsin. This celebration is an opportunity to reflect on the progress that has been made and to recommit to the ongoing efforts to maintain and improve the health of our environment for current future generations.*

# SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

## Wednesday, March 1

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8:30-11:00	WI Land+Water Board Meeting	1:30-7:00	Silent Auction, Exhibits, Poster Judging
9:00-11:00	Youth Speaking Contest	1:45-2:45	Breakout Sessions
9:30-12:00	Silent Auction Item Drop-off	2:45-3:15	Refreshment Break
9:30-4:30	Conference Registration	3:15-4:15	Breakout Sessions
11:00-12:00	Lunch Buffet	4:15-5:00	Area Association Meetings
11:30-1:30	Welcome, Youth Speeches, Keynote	5:00-7:00	Social & Conservation Alumni Gathering

## Thursday, March 2

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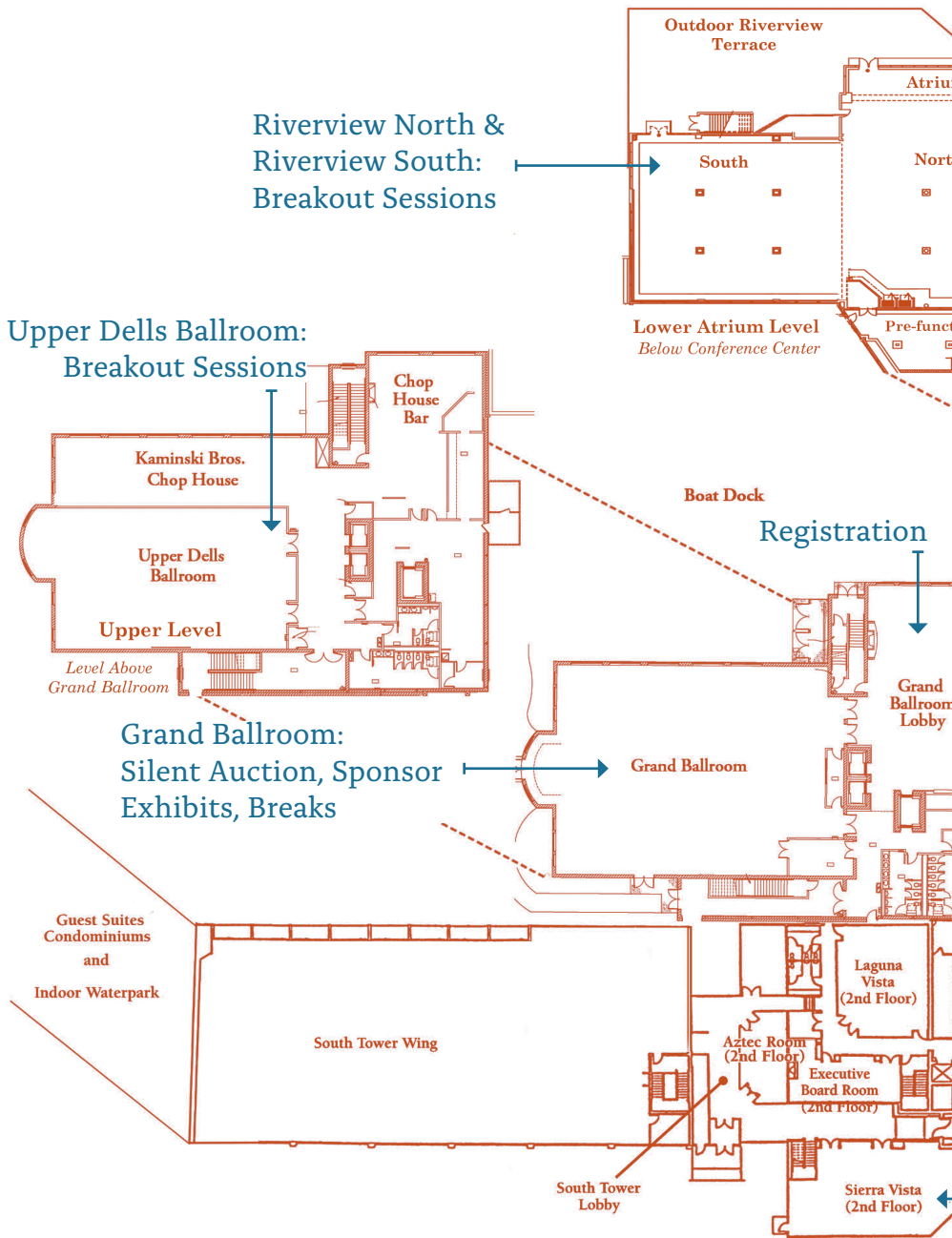
6:30-8:00	Breakfast Buffet	1:15-2:30	Breakout Sessions
7:30-6:00	Conference Registration, Silent Auction, Poster Judging, Exhibits	2:30-3:00	Refreshment Break
		3:00-4:15	Breakout Sessions
8:00-9:15	Breakout Sessions	4:15-6:00	Social, Exhibits, 50/50 Raffle, End of Silent Auction & Poster Judging
9:15-9:45	Refreshment Break		
9:45-11:00	Breakout Sessions		
11:00-12:45	Luncheon	6:00-8:15	Dinner & Awards Ceremony

## Friday, March 3

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6:30-8:00	Breakfast Buffet	10:15-10:45	Refreshment Break, Business Meeting Registration
7:30-10:30	Conference Registration, Auction Item Pickup		
8:00-9:00	Breakout Sessions	10:45-11:45	Business Meeting & Raffle Drawing
9:15-10:15	Breakout Sessions	11:00	Hotel Checkout

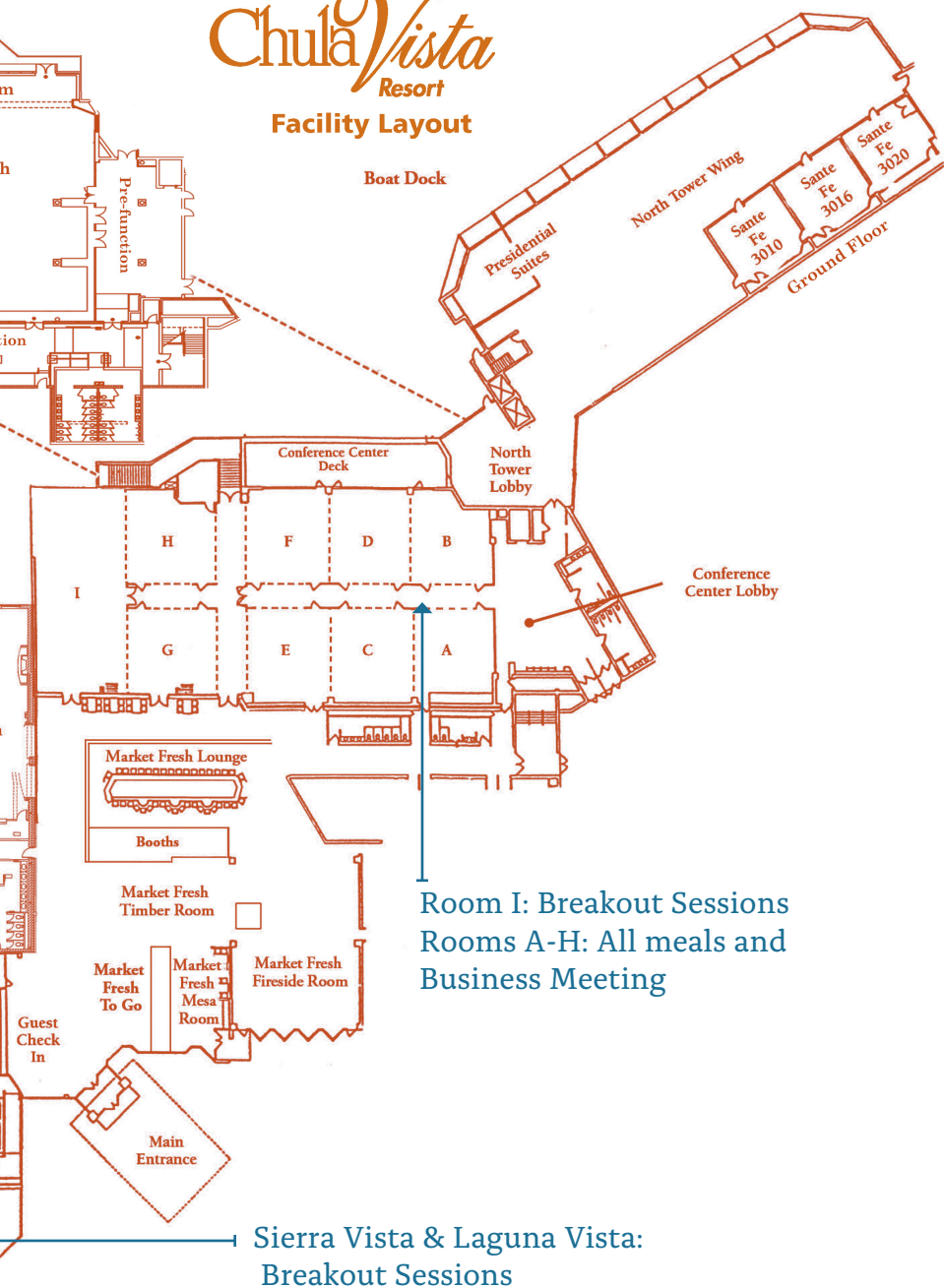
# EVENT MAP





# Chula Vista Resort

## Facility Layout



# POSTER CONTEST JUDGING

As part of the National Association of Conservation Districts' annual poster contest, students across Wisconsin have designed posters around this year's theme: *One Water*.



The creative posters on display in the Grand Ballroom Lobby are county and area winners, competing for the state title.

State champions will move on to compete in their age group for national honors.

## JUDGING INFORMATION

Voting begins **Wednesday at 1:30 PM** and closes **Thursday at 6:00 PM**.

Posters are on display in the Grand Ballroom Lobby.

Ballots and judging guidelines are provided in your registration folder.

# SILENT AUCTION

**Bidding, now open, ends Thursday at 6:00 PM.**

**Pick up your items between 7:30-10:30 AM on Friday.**



Bidding opened on February 22 and will be online through [32Auctions.com](https://32Auctions.com). Items will be displayed at the conference and should be dropped off in the Grand Ballroom.

You will be able to bid using the 32Auctions site or by scanning the QR code assigned to each item at the conference. If you will not be there on Friday morning to pick up your item, please make arrangements with someone to do so on your behalf.

All proceeds from the silent auction benefit WI Land+Water Youth Education programs.



# RAFFLE DETAILS

## Annual Raffle

After a two year hiatus, the annual raffle is back!



**This year's raffle features all cash prizes - \$500, \$300, \$200, and five \$100 prize-winners will be drawn.**

The drawing will take place at the end of the Business Meeting on Friday afternoon.

## 50/50 Raffle

The 50/50 raffle will be held during Thursday's Social Hour. The winner will be selected during the Awards Banquet on Thursday evening.

***All raffle proceeds benefit the WI Land+Water PIC Scholarship program.***

*Winners need not be present.*

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## *Congrats* to our **Conservation Farm Family of the Year**



## **Dave, Nancy, and Ron Schoepp** **Schoepp Farms LLC**

*Join the Scheopps this summer to learn more about their practices as they host Conservation Observance Day on their farm in Columbia County.*

# WEDNESDAY: OVERVIEW

**8:30<sub>AM</sub> - 11:00<sub>AM</sub>**

WI Land+Water Board Meeting  
*Laguna Vista (upstairs)*

**9:30<sub>AM</sub> - 12:00<sub>PM</sub>**

Conference Registration and  
Silent Auction Item Drop-off  
*Grand Ballroom*

**11:00<sub>AM</sub> - 12:00<sub>PM</sub>**

Lunch Buffet  
*Rooms A-H*

**11:30<sub>AM</sub> - 1:30<sub>PM</sub>**

Welcome and Keynote  
*Rooms A-H*

## OPENING WELCOME

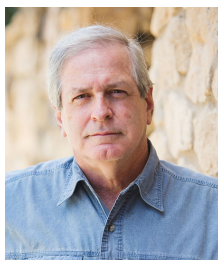
### Welcome

Matt Krueger  
*Executive Director, WI Land+Water*

### Winning Youth Speeches

Amy Workman  
*Upham Woods Center Director*

### Keynote Presentation



**Curt Meine** is a conservation biologist, environmental historian, and writer based in Sauk County, Wisconsin. He serves as Senior Fellow with the Aldo Leopold Foundation and Center for Humans and Nature; as Research Associate with the International Crane Foundation; and as Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In his home landscape, he is a founding member of the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance.

### Closing Remarks

Monte Osterman  
*Board Chair, WI Land+Water*

Jamie Keith  
*Acting State Conservationist, NRCS*



**1:30<sub>PM</sub> - 7:00<sub>PM</sub>**

Silent Auction, Exhibits, &  
Poster Judging | *Grand Ballroom*

**1:45<sub>PM</sub> - 2:45<sub>PM</sub>**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

*Details on next pages*

**2:45<sub>PM</sub> - 3:15<sub>PM</sub>**

Refreshment Break

*Grand Ballroom*

**3:15<sub>PM</sub> - 4:15<sub>PM</sub>**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

*Details on next pages*

**4:15<sub>PM</sub> - 5:00<sub>PM</sub>**

Area Association Meetings

LAKE MICHIGAN *Upper Dells Ballroom (above Grand Ballroom)*

LAKE WINNEBAGO *Riverview North (downstairs)*

NORTH CENTRAL *Laguna Vista (upstairs)*

NORTHWESTERN *Sierra Vista (upstairs)*

SOUTHEAST *Executive Board Room (upstairs)*

SOUTHERN *Riverview South (downstairs)*

WEST CENTRAL *Room I*

WESTERN *Aztec Room (upstairs)*

**5:00<sub>PM</sub> - 7:00<sub>PM</sub>**

Social & Alumni Gathering

*Grand Ballroom*



**Social Hour with a Side of Soil Health!**

*Come take a look at the Sauk County rainfall simulator in action. The demonstration will take a look at a cover crop field and pasture that are dormant for the winter. The question is – will the soil structure still be resilient to an intense rainfall event even when nothing is growing? Demonstration is weather dependent.*

# WEDNESDAY: BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1:45PM - 2:45PM

## Urban Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Stormwater Management

**Location:** *Sierra Vista*

*Presenters: Alan Barrows, Waukesha County and Shannon Haydin, WDNR*

Managing urban stormwater might not be something counties do as routinely as incorporated communities; however, often the county is required to implement BMPs for their own capital projects or to review plans for development in the unincorporated parts of the county. Learn how to select BMPs for different project types, how green infrastructure can be a useful solution for counties, and how to model these practices to show required reductions of total suspended solids. **(1 Professional Development CEU)**

## The Faces of County Conservation in Wisconsin: Session 1 of 2

**Location:** *Upper Dells Ballroom*

*Presenters: Tony Real, Calumet County; Paul Sebo, Washington County and Matt Hanewall, La Crosse County*

Meet and learn from experienced movers and shakers around the state. The past few years have not afforded staff the chance to meet and learn from others at in-person events. Tailored for new employees but open to all, this session is a great chance to meet others from around the state and hear about lessons learned from seasoned conservationists. Panelists will share a story from their conservation career that helped shape who they are today. **Session 1** will cover moments of personal and career growth. Attendees will also have the chance to meet and ask questions of the panelists, as well as other partners and agency representatives from all areas of the state. Choose to attend one or both! **(1 Professional Development CEU)**

## NACD: Connecting Federal Conservation Issues to the Local Level

**Location:** *Room I*

*Presenters: Beth Mason, NACD North Central Region Representative and Monte Osterman, WI Land+Water Board Chair and Executive Committee Vice President*

The National Assn. of Conservation Districts (NACD) is an umbrella organization that represents conservation districts (and county land and water conservation departments) at the federal level. NACD advocates for critical conservation issues such as Farm Bill funding, but also offers numerous programs, services, and benefits to local-level county LWCDs. Attend to learn about what NACD can do for you! **(1 Professional Development CEU)**



## WDNR's Water Grant Programs

### **Location: Riverview North**

*Presenters: Roberta Winebar, Joanna Griffin, Sarah Fanning, and Carroll Schaal, WDNR*

The WDNR offers cost-sharing grants to eligible applicants for surface water protection & restoration, recreational boating, and nonpoint source pollution reduction. Whether you're looking for help with outreach, data collection, planning, project design or implementation, there is probably a WDNR water grant that can help. During this talk, program staff will provide a quick orientation to three water grant programs: Surface Water Grants, Targeted Runoff Management and Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water Management Grants, and Recreational Boating Facilities Grants. Staff will highlight available funding opportunities, outline the steps you can take to develop a project and apply for a grant, and provide helpful tips on grant management and administration.

## Observations of Water Quality and River Conditions While Voyaging River Systems by Canoe

### **Location: Riverview South**

*Presenter: John Sullivan*

***\*This session was made possible by the support of the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program.***

John Sullivan is a paddling/poling enthusiast who enjoys extended solo canoe trips on rivers. His excursions started in the late 1990s and were focused primarily in Wisconsin. Over the past two decades, he has canoed many rivers of Wisconsin, the Midwest, and great national rivers including the Ohio, Missouri, and Mississippi. John's presentation will highlight some of the observations and will illustrate both unique and common problems that were apparent while traveling these waterways, but also show some of the beauty that can be found. John spent his entire working career with the Wisconsin WDNR in the fisheries, wastewater or water quality programs. A website of some of his canoe trips can be found at [Irishvoyageur.com](http://Irishvoyageur.com).



## A Farm Bill Breakdown – the “Other” Federal Conservation Funding Opportunity

**Location: Riverview North**

*Presenter: Margaret Krome, Policy Director, Michael Fields Agricultural Institute*

The federal Farm Bill is perhaps the most consequential conservation federal funding opportunity, which occurs every four years, including 2023. What is the status on the Farm Bill? What conservation provisions will this year’s Farm Bill contain? How does Farm Bill funding relate to “other” federal conservation programs (Inflation Reduction Act, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act)? Get answers to these questions and more! **(1 Professional Development CEU)**

## The Faces of County Conservation in Wisconsin: Session 2

**Location: Upper Dells Ballroom**

*Presenters: Tina Barone, Dunn County; Dave Ferris, Burnett County; and Travis Tulowitzky, Bayfield County*

**\*This session was made possible by the support of Wisconsin Counties Association.**

Meet and learn from experienced movers and shakers around the state. The past few years have not afforded staff the chance to meet and learn from others at in-person events. Tailored for new employees but open to all, this session is a great chance to meet others from around the state and hear about lessons learned from seasoned conservationists. Panelists will share a story from their conservation career that helped shape who they are today. **Session 2** will focus on the partnerships that make conservation work possible. Attendees will also have the chance to meet and ask questions of the panelists, as well as other partners and agency representatives from all areas of the state. Choose to attend one or both! **(1 Professional Development CEU)**

## Steps to Building an Effective and Supported Conservation Enforcement Program

**Location: Riverview South**

*Presenter: Paul Daigle*

Paul Daigle spent his career in conservation along with the last 10 years as the Land and Water Program Director in Marathon County where he managed the zoning, POWTS, and non-metallic mining program, as well as managing the conservation programs. This session will cover building support amongst stakeholders at the county level to develop and implement an effective program to achieve the desired outcomes. Daigle will share his experiences and lessons learned in order for you to establish or improve enforcement at the county level. Topics to be discussed will include when cost sharing is needed and sorting out the roles of the WDNR and county staff in enforcement.



## Assistance for the Assistant

### **Location: Sierra Vista**

*Presenters: Megan Steckelberg, Adams County; Cassie Kohls, Outagamie County; and Mary George, Shawano County*

Are you in the position of rendering assistance to EVERYONE? Join this roundtable discussion session to learn some best practices for the things you do every day. Learn from others in similar positions throughout the state. Compare notes with colleagues and make the assistance you give the best it can be. What do you do for tracking cost share? Is there an easy way to file electronically? What is the best way to track expenses? Is there more to do? What about communication – how do you do it and how do you receive it? Join us for an hour of honest and helpful sharing! (A session dedicated to transitioning to online tree sales is scheduled for Friday morning.)

## Nitrogen Fixing Corn

### **Location: Room I**

*Presenter: Dr. Jennifer Wilker, UW-Madison Department of Agronomy and Bacteriology*

Understanding how symbiotic associations between plants and microbes develop is an important biological question, particularly relevant in modern agriculture and economy. Researchers in the Ané lab are working on the characterization of maize accessions that can acquire 30-70% of their nitrogen from the air by hosting nitrogen-fixing bacteria in a gel produced by their aerial roots. They've found a similar trait in sorghum accessions. These projects could transform how the nitrogen nutrition of food and biofuel crops are met and reduce the dependence of our agriculture on nitrogen fertilizers. **(1 Crop Management CEU)**



## Downtown Dinner in the Dells

Grab some colleagues and grab some grub!  
Ride the bus to downtown Wisconsin Dells  
to enjoy dinner on your own.

***The first bus loads at 5:30 pm, departing from the Chula Vista Splash Pad. It will drop you off and pick you up at the corner of Broadway and Superior. Round trips will continue through the evening, with the last trip back to Chula Vista departing from downtown at 10:30 pm.***

*If you miss the last bus, you will need to find your own way back to the resort!*

# THURSDAY: OVERVIEW

**6:30AM - 8:00AM**

Breakfast Buffet  
*Rooms A-H*

**7:30AM - 6:00PM**

Conference Registration,  
Exhibits, Silent Auction, Poster  
Judging | *Grand Ballroom*

**8:00AM - 9:15AM**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**  
*Details on next pages*

**9:15AM - 9:45AM**

Refreshment Break  
*Grand Ballroom*

**9:45AM - 11:00AM**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**  
*Details on next pages*

**11:00AM - 12:45PM**

*Luncheon ft. Alonzo Kelly*  
*Rooms A-H*

## LUNCHEON

### Welcome

Bob Micheel

*President, WI Land+Water*

### The Art of Asking Better Questions



**Alonzo Kelly** has gained national and global attention. He is recognized as one the nation's leading experts on leadership development, strategic thinking, planning, and acting which results in individual and organizational goal achievement. Kelly will take attendees on a learning journey aimed at increasing their knowledge and ability to utilize critical thinking skills to make authentic connections.

**1:15PM - 2:30PM**

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

*Details on next pages*

**2:30PM - 3:00PM**

Refreshment Break

*Grand Ballroom*

**3:00PM - 4:15PM**

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

*Details on next pages*

**4:15PM - 6:00PM**

Social, Exhibits, 50/50 Raffle

*6:00 - Close of Silent Auction &  
Poster Judging*

**6:00PM - 8:15PM**

Dinner & Awards Ceremony

*Rooms A-H*

## **DINNER & AWARDS**



### **2023 Conservation Awards**

*hosted by*  
**Tracy Arnold  
&  
Pat Kilbey**

Your favorite emcees are  
back by popular  
demand!

### **Welcome**

Amy Piaget

*Treasurer, WI Land+Water,*

### **Award Categories**

*Conservation Farm Family  
of the Year*

*Outstanding Supervisor*

*Outstanding Conservation  
Employee | Conservation  
Specialist*

*Outstanding Conservation  
Employee | County  
Conservationist*

*Conservation Legacy Award*

*Friend of Conservation*

*Brad Matson Youth Education  
Award*

***Our awards banquet was made possible thanks to the generous support of USDA-NRCS.***

# THURSDAY: BREAKOUT SESSIONS

8:00AM - 9:15AM

## Technical Roundtable #1: Animal Waste Storage 101 and Concrete 101

**Location:** Riverview North

**Presenter:** Dennis Marquardt, P.E. DATCP

The first part of this roundtable will focus on the basics of animal waste storage and transfer design, and is for staff with limited knowledge of waste storage/transfer or those that need a refresher. The second is a discussion on concrete basics, which will focus on the requirements of Wisconsin Construction Specification 4 and associated component. It will be geared to those staff with limited experience using concrete.

**(1 Nutrient Management CEU / 1 Engineering PDH)**

## BMP Implementation Tracking System (BITS): DNR and County Perspectives

**Location:** Upper Dells Ballroom

**Presenters:** Molly Richardson, WDNR's BITS Data Systems Coordinator; Tony Reali, Calumet County; and Sarah Kussow, Outagamie County

BITS is an online tool familiar to any county who has received MDV funding or a nonpoint source pollution grant. Join Molly Richardson as she shares insider information about the history and use of BITS. Tony Reali and Sarah Kussow present tips and tricks from their experiences using BITS for MDV and nonpoint grant programs. We'll end with an open roundtable discussion. **(1 Soil & Water CEU)**

Keep the conversation going after the panel: join DNR staff from **9:15-9:45 am or 4:15-5:00 pm in the Lobby (near registration)** for an informal discussion and feedback-gathering conversation for a proposed new NR 151 tracking module in BITS. Beginning in fall 2023, the WDNR will start a multi-year project to develop a BITS module to help counties track implementation of the NR 151 agricultural performance standards across the state.

## Agroforestry: A Climate Change Solution that is Taking Root

**Location:** Riverview South

**Presenters:** Tucker Gretebeck, All Seasons Farm; Bob Micheel, Monroe County; and Matt Wilson, Savanna Institute

To reduce the impacts of climate change while bolstering farm landscapes and livelihoods to withstand extreme weather, the Monroe County Climate Change Task Force is partnering with farmers to demonstrate agroforestry, an innovative practice that integrates trees into working landscapes, with co-benefits that sequester carbon, increase animal comfort, build soil, and improve water infiltration. Hear how the Gretebecks partnered with Monroe County LCD and the Savanna Institute to enhance their pasture land with trees, a practice known as silvopasture. **(1 Sustainability CEU)**



## Communication Basics for Field Staff

### **Location: Room I**

*Presenters: Serge Koenig, Sauk County; Rod Webb, Pierce County; and Christina Hesselberg, La Crosse County*

***\*This session was made possible by the support of Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards (PACRS)***

Serge Koenig will present on strategies one can employ to move people to action in selling conservation practices, and cover the interpersonal relationship building skills necessary to establish trust. Rod Webb will share additional insights into communicating with landowners. Christina Hesselberg will provide attendees with experienced guidance on working with the Amish community. **(1 Professional Development CEU)**

## Getting the Most Bang for Your Buck from NRCS Local Working Groups

### **Location: Sierra Vista**

*Presenters: Eric Allness, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist, Partnerships and Melissa Bartz, Assistant State Conservationist, Financial Assistance Programs*

Learn about NRCS Local Work Groups and engage in a discussion on how county Land & Water Resource Management Plans can leverage LCD and NRCS goals, priorities, and funding opportunities. **(1 Professional Development CEU)**

**9:45AM - 11:00AM**

## Technical Roundtable #2: NRCS Engineering Spreadsheets and Grade Stabilization Structures

### **Location: Riverview North**

*Presenters: Janet Vosberg, P.E., NRCS and Drew Zelle, DATCP*

***\*This session was made possible by the support of Silt Sock.***

The first part will provide an overview of the current NRCS Wisconsin Engineering Spreadsheets found in Section 1 of the Wisconsin Field Office Technical Guide. The discussion will help LCD staff know what spreadsheet is available for what purpose and provide general guidance on how to use that spreadsheet. The second part will provide a discussion on the use of Grade Stabilization Structures used for gully erosion, and provide staff with a range of options when considering Grade Stabilization Structures. **(1 Soil & Water CEU / 1 Engineering PDH)**

## Farmland Preservation Program (FPP): Implementation Beyond the Tax Credit

### **Location: Room I**

*Presenters: Wednesday Coye, Tim Jackson, and Katy Smith, DATCP*

***\*This session was made possible by the support of Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection***

Get to know the FPP and agricultural enterprise areas (AEAs) from planning to execution. What does implementation mean beyond establishing eligibility for the tax credit? **(1 Professional Development CEU)**

## Talking to Farmers About Conservation Finance

### **Location: Riverview South**

*Presenter: Paul Dietmann, Senior Lending Officer of Mission Financing, Compeer Financial*

You may have a general idea about the economics of conservation, but how do farmers think about conservation and their finances? In this presentation learn common farm finance principles; identify what information farmers need to take to their lenders when they consider adding conservation practices; and get a list of resources for farmers, such as tools to examine the profitability of conservation options and data on the economics of cover crops, reduced tillage, and grazing. **(1 Professional Development CEU)**

## Next Generation of Boots on the Ground: Emerging Conservationists

*Presenters: Adams, Outagamie, Shawano, St. Croix Counties*

### **Location: Sierra Vista**

Are you looking for a way to expand your youth education program? A youth conservation field day may just be the ticket. Get students in an outside learning environment while exploring various aspects of conservation, along with an introduction to careers in natural resources with local partners and having a ball doing it! This is a field day you will walk away from feeling very rewarded. Come join us and learn how we do it. We will go over all of our core youth education programs to kick off this session.

## Wisconsin Groundwater: Why Are Some Areas Vulnerable to Contamination

### **Location: Upper Dells Ballroom**

*Presenters: Maureen Muldoon and David Hart, WGNHS*

Over two-thirds of Wisconsinites depend on groundwater as their primary drinking water source. Understanding groundwater and how to protect it is complex. Join the Wisconsin Geologic and Natural History Survey (WGNHS) to learn about groundwater basics and what makes some areas more vulnerable to contamination. Get connected with the many available resources and meet the experts to help answer groundwater questions in your county. **(1 Professional Development CEU)**

**1:15PM - 2:30PM**

## Technical Roundtable #3: Open Forum - Two-Stage Ditches, Engineering Certification, Permits, and Other Subjects To Be Determined by the Audience

### **Location: Riverview North**

*Panel: Mike Dreischmeier, PE, NRCS; Matt Woodrow, PE, Stacy Dehne, PE, and Travis Buckley, DATCP*

This roundtable is an open forum, so bring your questions and concerns and discuss them with your fellow conservationists. **(1 Soil & Water Management CEU / 1 Engineering PDH)**

## Tools and Approaches for Integrating Climate Change Considerations into Forest Management Plans

### **Location: Sierra Vista**

*Presenters: Ann Calhoun, The Nature Conservancy and Brad Hutnik, WDNR Division of Forestry*

Join this session to hear two case studies of how managers have utilized free resources like the Adaptation Workbook, U.S. Forest Management Tree Atlas, and Climate Change Field Guides for WI to help identify and assess climate-related risks for two different project sites in Sauk County and Milwaukee County, and how those tools and approaches helped them establish practical forest management plans with climate change in mind. **(1 Sustainability CEU)**

## Addressing Groundwater Issues at the County Level: The Kewaunee County and Southwest Wisconsin Groundwater and Geology Study (SWIGG) Experiences

### **Location: Upper Dells Ballroom**

*Presenter: Davina Bonness, Kewaunee County and Katie Abbott, Iowa County*

Davina Bonness and Katie Abbott will provide information on how they have addressed these various aspects to balance the agricultural, environmental, political and public concern, and what the results have been so far. This information can assist other county leaders with potential ways to address groundwater issues in their counties. **(1 Soil & Water Management CEU)**

## Insights into Black Bear Management in Wisconsin

### **Location: Riverview South**

*Presenter: Randy Johnson, Large Carnivore Specialist, WDNR*

Black bears are perhaps the single most emblematic wildlife species of Wisconsin's north woods, and they have distinct cultural, social, and economic values. Along with this thriving population, some level of conflict with human interests, including agricultural damages, nuisance bears, and occasional human safety concerns, will inevitably occur. This presentation will provide an overview of black bears in Wisconsin, insights into how the DNR and its partners manage the species, and a peek into the future of bears in Wisconsin. **(1 Professional Development CEU)**

## Moving from Concept to Contact: Utilizing The Tools for Effective DEIB Conversation and Conflict Resolution

### **Location: Room I**

*Presenter: Alonzo Kelly, Strategic Leadership Partner*

At some point the 'student' becomes the 'teacher'. We are all students when it comes to understanding the 'What' and 'Why' of concepts with respect to Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, Belonging, and Critical Thinking. The 'How' and 'When' is the point at which we actively apply our learning to situations and circumstances that challenge our understanding of concepts and their importance. This session will be intentional about active participation designed to enhance our confidence in engaging in conversations though complex, not always necessarily difficult. **(1 Professional Development CEU)**

## **Technical Roundtable #4: When Good Projects Go Bad**

**Location: Riverview North**

*Presenters: Erik Heagle, Grant County and Drew Zelle, DATCP*

This roundtable discussion will review what to do when things just don't go right during construction, such as how to handle contractor disagreements, practice failures, unforeseen climatic conditions, and a host of other factors that make practice installation just a bit more challenging. **(1 Professional Development CEU / 1 Engineering PDH)**

## **Batch and Build: A New Model for Implementation**

**Location: Upper Dells Ballroom**

*Presenter: John Swanson, Water Resources Supervisor, Polk County, Iowa*

A new program in Central Iowa sought a new model for implementing conservation on private lands, resulting in the birth of "The Batch and Build." This new model focuses on simplifying conservation and bringing opportunities to a landowner's front step. After years of trying traditional efforts unsuccessfully on edge of field practices, a team of conservationists developed a method to combine teamwork, fiscal agent funding structure, targeted outreach, and grouped construction. In two years the project constructed 150 saturated buffers and bioreactors, with hundreds more planned for 2023. The model is now being explored and developed for other conservation practices. **(1 Soil & Water Management CEU)**

## **Phosphorus Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) Discussion**

**Location: Riverview South**

*Presenters: Matt Claucherty and Andrew Craig, WDNR*

Join DNR staff for a discussion-heavy dive into the MDV program. Counties have been receiving phosphorus mitigation funds from point sources since 2018. The program has grown to roughly \$1 million per year, distributed amongst 30 counties on average. Now that many county staff have experience with the program, it's time to come together and discuss the finer points of MDV implementation. DNR staff will step through various program elements while county staff are encouraged to share their experiences, ask questions, and offer solutions. Topics will include program overview and purpose, geographic constraints, trouble spending the funds, prioritizing watersheds and projects, overall compliance (NR 151 and NR 102), and other topics TBD. The BMP Implementation Tracking System will be covered in a separate session. **(1 Soil & Water Management CEU)**



## Taking Your Partnership to Light Speed!

### **Location: Sierra Vista**

*Panelists: MaryJo Gingras, Ashland County; Brian Haase, Waupaca County; Amy Piaget, Dane County; Ken Gerhardt, Clark County; Mike Hofberger, Calumet County; Tom Mandli, Marinette County; and moderated by Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County*

This popular breakout session is back and better than ever! Successfully navigating a conservation department through the asteroid field of today's funding shortfalls and resource concerns requires respect, collaboration, and communication (even when you speak different languages). Hear lessons learned from experienced and savvy "pilots" in this stellar session on strengthening the LCC/LCD partnership. **(1 Professional Development CEU)**

## The Discovery, Recovery, and Preservation of the Lake Mendota Canoes

### **Location: Room I**

*Presenter: James M. Skibo, Ph.D., State Archaeologist, Curator of Archaeology, Wisconsin Historical Society*

There is indirect evidence that Wisconsin's inland waterways have been used as transportation corridors and to collect resources since the region was first occupied. Up until recently, however, the earliest evidence of a dugout canoe dates to about AD 250. A recent discovery from Lake Mendota in Madison, Wisconsin, demonstrates that water transportation extends back to over three thousand years. In September 2022, a 1,000 BC canoe was recovered in 25 feet of water. This session will examine the recent documentation and recovery of the Lake Mendota Dugout Canoe #2 and discuss how these findings have led to a reinvestigation of the region's climate and lake levels 3,000 years ago. Data from this research and analysis is a preliminary step in understanding Wisconsin's prehistoric maritime landscapes and the people who lived in this region.



# FRIDAY: OVERVIEW

**6:30<sub>AM</sub> - 8:00<sub>AM</sub>**

Breakfast Buffet  
*Rooms A-H*

**7:30<sub>AM</sub> - 10:30<sub>AM</sub>**

Conference Registration and  
Auction Item Pickup  
*Grand Ballroom*

**8:00<sub>AM</sub> - 9:00<sub>AM</sub>**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**  
*Details on next pages*

**9:15<sub>AM</sub> - 10:15<sub>AM</sub>**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**  
*Details on next pages*

**10:15<sub>AM</sub> - 10:45<sub>AM</sub>**

Refreshments & Business  
Meeting Registration  
*Rooms A-H*

**10:45<sub>AM</sub> - 11:45<sub>AM</sub>**

Business Meeting & Raffle Drawing  
*Rooms A-H*

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WOULD LIKE TO SAY

*thank you*

to the participants, sponsors, and  
agency partners for helping to  
make our 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference possible!

We hope to see you again next year:

**71st Annual Conference**

March 6-8, 2024

KI Conventions Center

Green Bay, WI

# FRIDAY: BREAKOUT SESSIONS

8:00AM - 9:00AM

## **"Nontraditional" Partners Working for Clean Water and Resilient Farms**

**Location:** *Laguna Vista*

*Presenters: Scott Laeser, Clean Wisconsin; Chad Zuleger, Dairy Business Association; Alex Madorsky, The Nature Conservancy; and Matt Krueger, WI Land+Water*

This roundtable discussion will review what to do when things just don't go right. Since 2019, the "clean water initiative," consisting of partners from agricultural and conservation groups, has been partnering to articulate a vision for agriculture and water quality in Wisconsin. While the job is not yet done, small victories have been achieved, and lots learned. Hear about what lessons have been learned, and what the group is prioritizing in 2023, and going forward. **(1 Professional Development CEU)**

## **Using the Soil Conditioning Index (SCI) to Demonstrate How Cropping Practices Like Cover Crops and Reduced Tillage Will Lead to Improved Soil Health**

**Location:** *Upper Dells Ballroom*

*Presenter: Mike Stanek, NRCS*

This session begins with a review of the updated 328 Conservation Crop Rotation practice standard. The SCI soil conditioning index threshold of 0.5 is designed to help planners reduce soil erosion, reduce or eliminate tillage operations and create a stronger trend of building soil organic matter levels. Building soil organic matter is a goal of many farmers, but it takes many years, even decades to move the needle. Several examples of conservation plans using the current erosion and nutrient management tools to achieve the minimum 0.5 SCI value will be shown. Meeting 'T' (tolerable soil loss) has always been a minimum requirement for this practice standard and that hasn't changed. **(1 Soil & Water Management CEU)**

## **From Fields to Features: Communication Conservation**

**Location:** *Riverview North*

*Presenters: Kristin Teston, Communications Manager, WI Land+Water; Katie Abbott, Outreach Committee Chair, Iowa County; and Mark Riedel, Project Manager, WDNR*

Reaching our conservation goals depends upon not only dedicated conservation professionals, but also an interested public, engaged landowners, and supportive elected officials. This panel explores how we can effectively communicate the value of conservation. Kristin Teston will discuss the importance of framing conservation success stories. Mark Riedel will provide story examples of long-term, sustained improvements in water quality in agricultural watersheds in Wisconsin. Katie Abbott will draw on her nonprofit experience to discuss messaging for key audiences.

**(1 Professional Development CEU)**

## Estimating Nitrate Leaching Losses Using Nitrogen Application Rates and Yield Data

### **Location: Room I**

*Presenter: Kevin Masarik, Groundwater Education Specialist, UW-Stevens Point*

This interactive session will demonstrate a new online application for estimating leachable nitrogen from various management scenarios. We will briefly discuss research used to validate a nitrate leaching estimation model and demonstrate how to use the application and existing datasets to understand potential impacts on groundwater quality. If you'd like, bring your laptop and follow along as we go through real world examples to estimate leaching losses using data on nitrogen inputs (i.e. fertilizer, manure, irrigation water) and yields for a variety of different crops.

**(1 Soil & Water Management CEU)**

## A Deep Dive into Wisconsin's Invasive Species Regulations, Decontamination, and Identification of AIS

### **Location: Sierra Vista**

*Presenter: Amy Kretlow, WDNR*

Wisconsin has a comprehensive and science-based law with criteria that makes it illegal to possess, transport, transfer or introduce certain invasive species. The intent of the invasive species rule, Wis. Admin. Code NR 40 is to prevent new invasive species from entering and becoming established in Wisconsin. NR 40 also requires certain preventative measures to be taken that are not species specific but complement existing statutes and rules. This presentation will describe these aspects of law, discuss preventative and decontamination measures, and introduce some aquatic and wetland invasive species you can be on the lookout for. **(1 Professional Development CEU)**

**9:15AM - 10:15AM**

## Basics of Soil Health and Climate Smart Agriculture

### **Location: Riverview North**

*Presenter: Andrew Paolucci, Soil Scientist, NRCS*

This presentation will cover: (1) the basics of how soil health indicators relate to soil functions such as climate resilience, (2) how soil health practices including cover crops and no-till impact soil health, and (3) new opportunities for implementing conservation activities and monitoring alternative management strategies through the Inflation Reduction Act. **(1 Sustainability CEU)**

## Wetlands Permitting 101

### **Location: Upper Dells Ballroom**

*Presenter: Nate Walker, WDNR*

Learn about wetland permits and the new Hydrologic Restoration General Permit (GP) and how to use it in the 2023 field season. **(1 Soil & Water Management CEU)**



## How to Successfully Host Your Tree Sale Online

### **Location: Laguna Vista**

*Presenters: Melissa Schlupp, Sauk County; Haillie Passow, Trempealeau County; and Leanna Bender, Pepin County*

Counties have been hosting annual tree sales for many years; however, often times it can become difficult to track orders, collect sales tax, and effectively communicate with customers. In this session, three counties will share their experiences moving their tree sales to an online store front.

## Working Wildlife Habitat onto Your Working Lands

### **Location: Sierra Vista**

*Presenter: Marty Moses, WI State Coordinator and Josh Bendorf, Precision Ag & Conservation Specialist, Pheasants Forever*

The majority of Wisconsin's landscape is dominated by private lands, many of which are actively farmed by Wisconsin's agricultural producers. These lands provide critical habitat to Wisconsin's array of songbirds, beneficial insects, and game bird species. Given the quantity of privately-owned lands in the state, the impact that can be achieved by doing wildlife-focused conservation projects on these lands is considerable. Pheasants Forever (PF) is a non-profit environmental organization that works with Wisconsin farmers to find conservation practices that balance the needs of the farm and the wildlife that call Wisconsin home. Marty & Josh will discuss the PF resources that are available to county conservation staff and the farmers that they work with. **(1 Professional Development CEU)**

## Protecting our Pollinators: The Importance of Plant and Program Diversity

### **Location: Room I**

*Presenters: Micah Kloppenburg, WI Pollinator Habitat Specialist, Xerces Society and Susan Sandford, Strategic Engagement Coordinator for Dane County Land & Water Resources Dept.*

***\*This session was made possible by the support of Dixon Shoreline Landscaping.***

Bees, beetles, and butterflies! Flower-rich habitats are integral to cultivating the unique relationships between our native pollinators and their host plants. We'll review some of the creative ways Xerces and counties are laying the groundwork for pollinator conservation by planting quality habitat and inspiring community action. The presentation will include a background on pollinator biology + habitat needs as well as examples of projects, including the Xerces' budding habitat kit program and Dane County's Free Native Plant volunteer growing program, which has provided over 29,000 free plants to school and community projects. **(1 Professional Development CEU)**

# CONFERENCE SPONSORS

The support of our sponsors allows us to provide our attendees with a rich and diverse program filled with engaging presentations, interactive sessions, and networking opportunities. We want to express our deepest thanks for their support and for being a part of this exciting event.

**Many sponsors have booths in the Grand Ballroom**, and we invite our attendees to connect with our sponsors during the conference.



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*Greetings!*

*Let's celebrate 70 years of locally  
led conservation in Wisconsin! We've  
missed you, and we're excited to see  
you right here in the majestic Wisconsin  
Dells. May the coming days leave you  
feeling connected to and inspired by  
your conservation community!*

*- WT Land + Water Staff*



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