



February, 2 2015

From the dozens of statewide youth conservation contests to the pile of conservation award ballots to the 17 boxes of conference freebies that were just delivered, our office is in full conference mode. We hope you join us in Appleton.

It's Conference Time!

Early Registration Ends Monday, February 9

Join us March 9-11 in at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel Appleton for our Annual Conference? Register before February 9 to receive the early registration rate.

Stay at the Conference Hotel. Mention WI Land+Water and secure a spot under our room block to receive the state rate. The room block will be released on February 9, so book today!

Not registered and still need more convincing? Check out the great list of sessions and register today!

<http://wisconsinlandwater.org/events/annual-conference>

New Event! Celebrating Women in Conservation

Join us at Good Company Monday evening to honor women who have dedicated their careers to conservation and public service.

Patricia Leavenworth, former NRCS State Conservationist;
Kathy Pielsticker, former DATCP Bureau director and administrator;

Lloyd Eagan, former DNR Southcentral Regional Director;
Paula Carow, former Rusk County Conservationist; and
Nancy Barker, Winnebago County LCC Secretary.



Quick Links

[Upcoming meetings and events](#)

[Training Opportunities](#)

[Submit your success story](#)

Member Spotlight



Greg Cleereman

Greg Cleereman has spent a lifetime enjoying nature, but the drive to make a difference is what pushed him back to school at age 30 and led to him becoming the Marinette County Conservationist. We asked Greg to tell us a little about himself, his 17 years of experience in Marinette County, and his thoughts on the future of Wisconsin conservation.

[Read the full interview here.](#)

Stay Connected

Sponsored by Wisconsin Counties Association and Wisconsin Women in Government.

Keynote Speaker Announced

Wisconsin native and conservation specialist, Stephen Laubach will be the keynote speaker this year's Annual Conference. His recent book, "Living a Land Ethic: A History of Cooperative Conservation on the Leopold Memorial Reserve" shares the untold history and the importance of the Leopold Reserve in the American conservation movement.



Silent Auction

There is still time to solicit items for the silent auction- all money raised will benefit the Youth Education Programs. [Visit our website to download silent auction materials.](#)

Raffle Tickets

Buy Buy Buy raffle tickets! Sales continue until the drawing at the close of the conference on Wednesday, March 11. Raffle proceeds benefit the WI Land+Water Scholarship Program.

Exhibit Table

Would you like to showcase your organization at the conference? There is still time to secure an exhibit table. Contact Kim@wisconsinlandwater.org to get [more information or download an exhibit form from our website.](#)

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

The WI Land+Water Annual conference is the perfect opportunity to network with more than 300+ conservation professionals and agency partners. [Help sponsor this exciting event by checking out our sponsorship opportunities here.](#)

State Poster Contest

New This Year! Conference attendees will have an opportunity to vote on posters. Ballots and judging guidelines will be in your conference folder (one vote per person). **All attendees who vote will be entered into a drawing.** Poster and the raffle winner will be announced at the Tuesday night awards dinner. Please participate and help make this year's poster contest a success.



Join our member listserv!

Connect with your colleagues across the state through our listserv. If you or members of your office or committee are not receiving emails through our LCC or LCD lists, contact [Christina](#) to get connected.

Keep Up with Committees

Wondering what our great committees are up to? Get caught up by taking a peek at their meeting minutes. Click on the committees below for an archived list of approved minutes.

[Great Lakes](#)

[Leg/Admin](#)

[Public Outreach](#)

[Professional Improvement](#)

[Technical](#)

[Youth Ed](#)

 **SITCOM**

Join our Listserv!

Get updates on upcoming training opportunities by joining the SITCOM listserv. To receive the training newsletter or promote an upcoming training, contact [Christina](#).



Know your standards

Keep up-to-date on the latest standard revisions by [visiting the Standards Oversight Council's](#)

The loss of a great leader

Joe Piechowski, a WI Land+Water Board and Executive Committee member, of Redgranite, WI, passed away on Friday, December 5, 2014. Joe was also a Land Conservation Committee member of the State Land and Water Conservation Board. Joe strongly believed in civic duty and served as a member of the Waushara County Board of Supervisors for more than 20 years. He chaired the Waushara County Land/Water/Education Committee and was Vice Chair of the Planning and Zoning Committee, as well as serving on many other committees. Joe was involved in many local public service efforts and was named Redgranite Citizen of the Year in 1994. We will miss Joe's incredible devotion to conservation efforts in Wisconsin. We were lucky to know him.



Photo courtesy of Golden Sands RC&D

Your chance to be heard - SOC updates

Draft Filter Strip standard open for comment until February 2nd

The revised NRCS Filter Strip standard establishes criteria allowing managers to harvest the vegetation on buffer strips. View the proposed changes, new accompanying Technical Note and how to submit your comments [here](#). Comments will be accepted by the end of day, February 3rd.

Solicitation of new team members to develop Vegetated Swale standard

SOC is soliciting participation on a new team charged with developing a new DNR vegetated treatment swale standard that will address the design and use of vegetated swales for Total Suspended Solids removal in storm water runoff. Individuals with experience constructing, designing, maintaining, testing, and/or using vegetated swales are encouraged to apply by February 20th. County perspective, input, and participation is always valued and appreciated. [More information here](#).



2015 SOC Work Plan posted

SOC's updated Work Plan listing upcoming scheduled standard revisions has been [posted](#). Conservation technicians are encouraged to review the Work Plan and offer suggestions for revisions prior to the release of draft standards or those standards in the Minor Revision process not scheduled for broad review.

Youth Education

Envirothon

We are excited to announce that the FFA- Future Farmers of America have chosen to use the Envirothon for their contest this year which means more schools participating in the Envirothon. [Click here to register!](#)

Conservation Camps

Sand Lake Camp (June 24-26) and WI Land+Water Conservation Camp (June 22-26) registration will be open soon- [please visit our website for information](#).



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