

2019 Midwest Land and Stewardship Peer Gathering

DRAFT Agenda

Tuesday, May 7 – Thursday, May 9, 2019

Siena Retreat Center

5637 Erie St. | Racine, Wisconsin 53402

www.sienaretreatcenter.org

Monday, May 6 | Monday Enrichment Session (invite only)

Please note: The agenda for the Monday Enrichment Session, intended for the expert peer group (A-Team) who assist in running the Land and Stewardship Peer Group, is being developed separately. If you are registered for this invite-only event, we will email you more information when it is available. For travel purposes, plan on checking in at the Oak Room in the Siena Center by **11:45am**.

Tuesday, May 7 | Assembling at Siena

Please note: Your peers are crafting an agenda to cover a range of learning and networking opportunities. The following should pique your interest and give you an idea of what to expect. Contact Laura Eklov at 269-215-1762 or midwest@lta.org with any questions.

10:30am

Optional field visit to the Somers Farm and Prairie

Leaders: Stacy Cushenberry, Hope Hellman and Ron Doetch, Solutions in the Land; Stephen Petro, Fondy Food Market; David Grusznski, The Conservation Fund; Charles Heide, Landowner

We will be gathering at [Somers Farm and Prairie](#) south of Racine from 10:30am-12:00pm for a farm tour. More details will be emailed to you before the gathering.

- Protection of the watershed, restoration of native landscapes and preserving food-producing land in proximity to urban areas are immediate goals at the Somers Farm and Prairie. The Heide Family stewards this 160 acres site that contains both native and agricultural landscapes and has a mission to protect and sustainably manage open space in southeastern Wisconsin.
- We will learn about sustainable agriculture, water protection, prairie restoration, helping beginning and immigrant farmers chart a path to land stability, growing healthy local food, and how best agricultural practices and permanent land solutions can protect water quality in urban areas

- 1:00pm **Main event check-in**
Gather in the Oak Room and meet and greet your peers. Lunch is **not** provided.
- 1:30pm **Conservation 2.0 – where do we go from here?**
We will discuss examples of creative and non-traditional land trust activities. Be prepared to share yours!
- 3:30pm **New perspectives on fish and wildlife preservation**
Leader: Gary Casper, [Great Lakes Ecological Services, LLC](#)
- Gary will present on over a decade of research into watershed-scale conservation planning focused on improving fish and wildlife preservation. He will review new methods for assessing species' local conservation status and identifying rare species and critical habitats on a landscape.
- The focus will be on how to use biodiversity information to answer:
1. What are the fish and wildlife species in the focus area?
 2. Which species should we care about?
 3. What are their issues?
 4. How does data feed back into your land trust's mission?
- 4:45pm **Lodging check-in / dinner onsite / free time**
- 7:00pm **Evening presentation and social** (*ends around 8:30pm*)
Communication is key! We will discuss how to “not be such a scientist” when talking with different groups within and outside of our organizations.
- Participants are encouraged to bring a local (to your area) snack or beverage to share with the group. More details will be provided later.

Wednesday, May 8 | Climate Change and Natural Resource Management

Please note: see separate Climate Agenda for details, resources, and homework assignments

Participating live or watching the recording of the pre-gathering webinar on **Thursday, April 18 at 1pm Central (2pm Eastern)** will greatly enhance your workshop experience today. The webinar will cover climate resiliency and planning tools to help determine *where* to work. Contact Laura at 269-215-1762 or midwest@lta.org for further details.

Today you will be introduced to a process for considering climate change in natural resource management and planning. Regional experts will present an overview of how climate change is expected to impact ecosystems in the Midwest. You will use this information, along with planning tools and their own local knowledge, to identify how climate change might influence resource management objectives on properties you manage. This process provides a clear connection between regional climate impacts and management actions, which can then be refined and incorporated into organizational or project plans. Want to help shape this session? Please take our 5-10 minute survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019MW_LS_Peers_Climate_Pre-Survey by **April 30**.

- 6:30am **Birding on the shoreline** (*optional – approximately 1 hour*)
- 8:00am **Breakfast onsite for Main Gathering participants**
- 8:45am **Event check-in for Wednesday Only participants**
Breakfast is not included for Wednesday only participants, but we'll have coffee and light snacks available in the Oak Room.
- 9:00am **Climate change and natural resource management – part 1**
Presenters: Kristen Schmitt and Leslie Brandt, Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science; Nick Miller, The Nature Conservancy; Kelly Watkinson, Land Trust Alliance
- Climate change in the Midwest
Anticipated climate impacts specific to areas where you live and work
 - Activity: Considerations for land stewardship and acquisition decisions
Identifying climate change considerations relevant to your work
 - Review and discussion: Conserving Nature's Stage planning tool for land acquisition
Explanations of data sources and assumptions that created The Nature Conservancy's resiliency tool and discussion on how to use this tool in your work
- 12:00pm **Lunch onsite**
- 1:00pm **Climate change and natural resource management – part 2**
Presenters: Kristen Schmitt and Leslie Brandt
- Responding to climate change: An overview of adaptation concepts
Introduction to climate change adaptation strategies that may be employed in various land management projects
 - Breakout activity: Developing adaptation actions for natural resources
Groups will select a management scenario to work on and brainstorm adaptation strategies, approaches, and tactics; resources will be provided
 - Adaptation actions report-out and discussion
The full group will review lessons learned from each of the small group scenarios
- 4:00pm **Expert Panel**
Panelists: Kelly Watkinson, Nick Miller, Kristen Schmitt and Leslie Brandt
- Questions and discussion
 - Next steps – where do we go from here?
- 5:00pm **Adjourn**
- 6:00pm **Dinner offsite** (location TBD)
We will travel offsite for dinner. Meet in the lobby by **5:30pm**. Carpooling is encouraged and appreciated. **Please be prepared to pay for your meal.**

Thursday, May 9 | Hot Topics and Warm Departures

- 6:30am **Outdoor run, walk or other activity** (*optional – approximately 1 hour*)
- 8:00am **Breakfast onsite**
- 9:00am **Concurrent round tables A1 and A2** (*pick one*)
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| <u>Round table A1: Vexing land acquisition problems</u>
<i>Leader: Clint Miller, The Conservation Fund</i> | <u>Round table A2: Managing conservation easements – dealing with reserved rights</u>
<i>Leader: TBD</i> |
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- 10:00am **Concurrent round tables B1 and B2** (*pick one*)
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| <u>Round table B1: Universal access (TBC)</u>
<i>Leader: Elan Lipschitz, Little Forks Conservancy</i> | <u>Round table B2: LANDSCAPE software discussion</u>
<i>Leader: Caleb Pourchot, Dendroyka LLC</i> |
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- Is your land trust dedicated to providing access for all to nature? Elan will illustrate examples of building Universal Access trails, including community involvement, funding accessible trails, stewardship, design and building. We will brainstorm ideas about inclusion, share our ideas, and problem solve your questions and concerns.
- We will provide copies of Larry Knutson’s *Universal Access Trails and Shared Use Paths* (preview it on The Learning Center at <https://tlc.lta.org/topclass/topclass.do?expand-OfferingDetails-viaTC=1-offeringId=357634-viaTC=1>) and resources for understanding legal and design requirements for ADA and UA trails.
- Do you use LANDSCAPE? Interested in learning more about it? Ask creator, Caleb Pourchot, during this session! He will tailor the discussion to our group’s needs.
- Topics may include:
- Integrating the LANDSCAPE mobile app for easement monitoring
 - Preserve management
 - Site assessments for acquisition
 - General Q&A for LANDSCAPE users
- Learn more about LANDSCAPE at <https://landconservationsoftware.com/>
- 11:00am **Time management**
Leaders: MaryKay O’Donnell, Land Trust Alliance; Meg Domroese, Gathering Waters: Wisconsin’s Alliance for Land Trusts
- 12:00pm **Lunch onsite**
- 1:00pm **Wrap up: sharing lessons learned and next steps**
- 2:00pm **End of Gathering**

2018-2019 Midwest Land and Stewardship Peer Learning Program is a collaborative effort of the Land Trust Alliance and Gathering Waters: Wisconsin’s Alliance for Land Trusts. The program and this peer gathering are made possible through the generous donations of individuals and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation and the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust.