

2019 Midwest Land and Stewardship Peer Gathering

FAQs and Logistics

Tuesday, May 7 – Thursday, May 9, 2019

Q: Where will we be meeting?

A: Our event will be held at the Siena Retreat Center in Racine, Wisconsin, about 25 miles south of Milwaukee on the shore of Lake Michigan. For more information about the facility and how to get there, please visit <https://www.sienaretreatcenter.org/>.

Q: What are my registration options for the gathering? When will we be meeting?

A: You may register for the:

- Main Event (Tuesday, May 7 through Thursday, May 9) for **\$300**,
- Main Event + Monday Enrichment Session (Monday, May 6 through Thursday, May 9) for **\$375**, or
- Wednesday Climate Workshop Only (Wednesday, May 8) for **\$75**.

The **Monday Enrichment Session** is an invitation-only extra day intended for the expert peer group (A-Team) who assist in running the Land and Stewardship Peer Group. Check-in for this event will be in the Oak Room at **11:45am Central** on **Monday, May 6**. You will receive an additional night of lodging (May 6), lunch at Siena on May 6 and 7, and breakfast on May 7. Dinner offsite on May 6 is not included.

While our agenda for the **Main Event** (Tuesday through Thursday) is still being developed, check-in will start at **1:00pm Central** on **Tuesday, May 7** in the Oak Room at Siena (lunch on Tuesday is not included). The event is expected to end at **2:00pm** on **Thursday, May 9**. We will post updates to the website and connect with you at least one week before the gathering.

If you register for the **Wednesday Climate Workshop Only**, please check in at the Oak Room by **8:45am Central** on **Wednesday, May 8**. Lunch but no lodging is included.

Q: What's the lodging situation for the Main Event?

A: Your registration fee covers lodging at the Siena Retreat Center the nights of Tuesday, May 7 and Wednesday, May 8. You will have your own room and will not have to share a bathroom (please bring your own toiletries). Free parking is available onsite. While we can't guarantee its strength, the retreat center does have a free wireless internet connection and a computer available in the lobby for participant use.

Q: Is alcohol allowed at Siena? How about smoking?

A: Siena is a smoke free facility. While Siena Retreat Center is not strictly an alcohol-free facility, alcoholic beverages may only be consumed in the meeting rooms, not in the lodging areas or adjacent sitting rooms. We are planning on going somewhere that you can buy drinks for the off-site dinner on Wednesday.

You are also welcome to bring local food or an alcoholic or non-alcoholic drink to share for our Tuesday evening social. More details on the social will be provided later.

Q: Are meals included for the Main Event?

A: Most meals are included: dinner on Tuesday, and breakfast and lunch on Wednesday and Thursday will be provided in the dining hall at Siena Retreat Center.

On Wednesday evening, we will be eating dinner off-site, location TBD. You will be expected to cover the cost of this meal. Please plan accordingly.

Q: Are we going to get outside?

A: Possibly. We are looking into setting up a field trip or onsite service project the morning of Tuesday, May 7 or the afternoon of Thursday, May 9. These events will take place outside of the start and end times noted above.

We may also add onsite activities (birding walk, yoga, etc.) the mornings of May 7 and May 8. If you are interested in leading an onsite run, yoga session or birding walk, please contact Laura at midwest@lta.org or 269-215-1762.

All scheduled outdoor group activities will be optional and will take place rain or shine. Please plan accordingly. You also are welcome to explore Siena's nature trails through the woods, along a ravine, and by Lake Michigan during your free time.

Q: What else will we be doing?

A: Parts of the agenda are still being crafted. Wednesday will be an all-day interactive session on climate adaptation, including techniques for managing land and incorporating climate considerations into strategic conservation plans. We will post updates to the agenda at www.landtrustalliance.org/mw-peer-gathering-may-2019.

Q: What should I wear?

A: Dress is casual. Please be prepared to walk outdoors in any weather. At this time of year, you would normally expect lows in the lower 40s and highs in the mid-60s. Considering this the Midwest, please consult your favorite source for weather information right before the gathering and plan accordingly.

Q: Can you tell me about the April webinar?

A: As part of your learning experience, all registrants will receive an exclusive 90-minute webinar on **Thursday, April 18 at 2pm Eastern / 1pm Central**. This webinar with Nick Miller and Kim Hall with The Nature Conservancy will cover climate resiliency, climate planning tools including TNC's Conserving Nature's Stage, and adapting to climate change by looking at "where to work." We will send you the login instructions in advance. A link to the recording will be sent to all participants after the session in case you are unable to join the live session.

While it is not required, participating in the webinar is strongly recommended, especially if you were unable to attend the October 2018 peer gathering. The webinar will greatly enhance your experience in the climate workshop of this gathering, when we will focus more on "how to work."

Q: When will I get the final details for the gathering?

A: You will receive an email with final logistics, agenda and details from us approximately one week before the gathering.

Q: I have another question that's not on this list . . .

A: For details about this meeting, including the agenda and logistics, please contact Laura Eklov, Midwest Coordinator for the Land Trust Alliance, at midwest@lta.org or 269-215-1762.

See you at Siena!