

Urban Wetlands

Wisconsin Wetlands Association's 17th Annual Conference



February 22-23, 2012
Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

www.wisconsinwetlands.org



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ABOUT WISCONSIN WETLANDS ASSOCIATION

Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA) is dedicated to the protection, restoration and enjoyment of wetlands and associated ecosystems through science-based programs, education and advocacy. WWA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our members include wetland scientists, wetland professionals, educators, hunters and anglers, conservationists, and concerned citizens. Learn more about WWA online at www.wisconsinwetlands.org.



WWA thanks We Energies for their generous support as Lead Sponsor of our 2012 Conference

WORLD WETLANDS DAY

February 2nd is World Wetlands Day. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance was signed on February 2, 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar. Each year, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and groups of citizens take action to raise public awareness of wetland values and the Ramsar Convention. This conference is held in celebration of World Wetlands Day 2012. Learn more about World Wetlands Day at www.ramsar.org.

Wisconsin Wetlands Association has been selected to receive the 2012 Wetland Conservation Award for Education from the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. In addition, the Kakagon and Bad River Sloughs complex was recently designated a Wetland of International Importance. See page 5 of this program for details about these two exciting announcements and the special celebration being held at this conference to celebrate them.



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)



MAKE IT SOCIAL

“Like” us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter @WIWetlandsAssoc
Share your conference experience! Use #WWA_WC12 to tweet about the conference.





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Note: In an effort to conserve resources, we have not printed presentation abstracts and speaker biographies as part of the program this year. You can view abstracts and biographies at the registration desk or download them (in pdf format) at www.wisconsinwetlands.org/2012program.htm.

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Urban Wetlands

Wisconsin Wetlands Association's
17th Annual Wetland Conference

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Lake Geneva, Wisconsin



Welcome to Wisconsin Wetlands Association's 17th Annual Wetland Conference: Urban Wetlands

As more of our landscapes are developed, more of our wetlands are located in urban environments. Development can bring dramatic changes to many factors affecting wetlands, and these dramatic changes can mean significant negative impacts for wetlands.

At the same time, climate experts are predicting an increase in both the number and severity of future severe-weather events. These changes will bring particularly great challenges to urban areas with significant impervious surfaces and where traditional infrastructure will be severely stressed by the increased intensity of rain events. Wetland protection and restoration will become increasingly important strategies for mitigating some of these impacts.

While urban environments pose great challenges to wetlands, wetlands can also offer many opportunities for human communities to manage water-related issues and provide for a better quality of life for residents.

This conference provides an opportunity for the regional wetland community to discuss the latest wetland science, management, restoration, and protection issues around the *Urban Wetlands* conference theme.

CONFERENCE ADVISORY PANEL

Numerous partners assisted in developing, planning, and reviewing the content of the conference program.

We thank the following Advisory Panel participants for their contributions:

Jim Anderson, Lake County Forest Preserves and Chicago Wilderness
Tom Bernthal, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Dave Fowler, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
Tracy Hames, Wisconsin Wetlands Association Executive Director
Tod Highsmith, Wisconsin Wetlands Association Board of Directors
Art Kitchen, Wisconsin Wetlands Association Board of Directors
Mary Linton, Wisconsin Wetlands Association Board of Directors
Nick Miller, The Nature Conservancy
Vince Mosca, Hey and Associates
Travis Olson, Wisconsin Coastal Management Program
Eric Parker, Stantec
Jim Reinartz, UW-Milwaukee
Stephen Solheim, UW-Whitewater
Pat Trochlell, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Dreux Watermolen, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Joy Wolf, UW-Parkside
Paul Zedler, WWA Board of Directors, UW-Madison, UW Arboretum

WWA staff supporting the Panel: Katie Beilfuss, Andrea McMillen, and Stephani Pescitelli.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

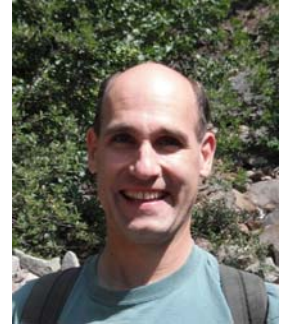
KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 9:00 — 10:10 am

Location: Grand Ballroom

The economic value of urban wetlands: Revealing our best investments

David Batker, Chief Economist & Executive Director, Earth Economics



Economies need nature. Ecosystems provide foundational economic goods and services. Wetlands are no exception and provide tremendous economic value to our economy. We know that wetlands provide billions of dollars in benefits to local and regional economies in the United States every year. Most of these benefits are provided to the public at no cost over vast spans of time. However, more often than not, we fall short in measuring and communicating the economic value of wetlands, and as a result they're almost never considered in policy-making and, by default, are assigned a value of zero. This can lead to underinvestment in these valuable ecosystems. Today we have the economic tools to appraise the value of wetlands and other natural capital. This presentation will describe methods and approaches used to calculate economic values of the ecosystem services provided by wetlands and will present examples of projects in which Earth Economics has been involved in valuing natural capital.

About the Speaker

Founder and Executive Director of Earth Economics since 1998, David Batker has completed over a dozen path breaking ecological economics studies that have changed policy at the international and local levels. Mr. Batker completed his graduate training in economics under Herman Daly, one of the world's foremost ecological economists and brings over 20 years of experience working on environmental and economic issues specializing in ecosystem service valuation, trade and international finance.

BANQUET PRESENTATION

Wednesday, February 22, 2012, banquet 6:30 pm, presentation 7:30 pm

Location: Grand Ballroom

Integrating Traditional Culture and Scientific Methodology to Restore and Manage Wetlands

Tracy Hames, Executive Director, Wisconsin Wetlands Association



Join us to meet Wisconsin Wetlands Association's new Executive Director, Tracy Hames, and to hear more about the amazing wetland protection, restoration, and management work on the Yakama Reservation for which he was a key leader over the past 22 years.

About the Speaker

Tracy Hames is the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wetlands Association. From 1989 to 2011, he was employed as a Waterfowl Biologist with the Yakama Nation Wildlife Resource Management Program and was the lead biologist in the Yakama Nation's Wetlands and Riparian Restoration Project. He received a Bachelors in Biology and Environmental Studies from Macalester College, St. Paul, MN in 1989 and a Masters in Natural Resources from UW- Stevens Point in 1990.

Note: The Banquet is a ticketed event open to conference participants and the general public who purchased tickets in advance. If you did not purchase a ticket, please see the conference registration desk for information about ticket availability.



The conference banquet is generously sponsored by Ho-Chunk Nation



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

SPECIAL SESSION: BIOLOGISTS WITHOUT BORDERS

Thursday, February 23, 2012, 8:30 am — 12:00 noon

Location: Maple Lawn C

This Special Session will highlight collaborative efforts to address ecological and biological issues across political boundaries (e.g. county and state lines) to promote effective protection, restoration, and management of wetlands and associated ecosystems. Special thanks to Jim Anderson, Natural Resource Manager for Lake County (IL) Forest Preserves and Chair of the Chicago Wilderness Coordinating Group, for his help organizing and moderating this session.

Chicago
Wilderness

The Special Session is generously sponsored by Chicago Wilderness

PLENARY ADDRESS

Beyond Here There Be Dragons

Ed Collins, Natural Resource Manager, McHenry County (IL) Conservation District

Natural resource professionals are extremely knowledgeable about the sites they manage. Ask a manager about rare species occurrences, prescribed burn history, or potential land acquisitions near their site and the response is likely to be extremely comprehensive. But such detailed knowledge often diminishes in direct relationship to the distance from a manager's site boundaries.

State and county boundaries may exist only on paper, but they can form a biological "Berlin Wall" when it comes to data sharing, management, and land protection strategies.

This session will introduce some of the common problems associated with the blank spaces lying beyond our own sites, introduce ideas to break holes in those walls and focus on the efforts to create a Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge along the Wisconsin-Illinois state line as a case study on interstate cooperation.

About the Speaker

Ed Collins is the Natural Resource Manager for the McHenry Co. Conservation District (IL). McHenry Co., one of the border counties along the Wisconsin line, has protected 25,000 acres of open space since 1971. Ed supervises the work of 15 other biologists charged with restoring grasslands, wetlands, and woodlands on those protected lands.

SPECIAL SESSION PRESENTATIONS *(See page 7 for presentation times)*

Jim Anderson	Lake County Forest Preserves	Biologists Across Borders: An overview of Chicago Wilderness
Jeffrey Mengler	Cardno ENTRIX and Chicago Wilderness	The Chicago Wilderness Green Infrastructure Vision
John Rogner	Illinois DNR	Millenium Reserve Calumet: Reinvesting in the ecology, culture, and economy of the Calumet Region
Debbie Maurer	Lake County Forest Preserves	Strategies for invasive plant management in the Chiwaukee Illinois Beach Lake Plain
Patty Werner	Lake County Storm-water Management Commission	Developing a restoration and management plan for a watershed with one creek in two states
Jeff Martinka	Sweet Water	Collaborating for water quality in the greater Milwaukee watersheds: The Sweet Water partnership



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

RAMSAR CELEBRATION

Thursday, February 23, 12:00 — 1:30 pm (during lunch)

Location: Grand Ballroom

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, also known as the Ramsar Convention, is a treaty initiated in 1971 that provides for international cooperation among 160 countries for the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Two recent announcements from the Ramsar Convention provide a reason for Wisconsin wetland enthusiasts to celebrate:

- Wisconsin Wetlands Association has been selected to receive the 2012 **Wetland Conservation Award for Education** from the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. This award recognizes WWA's work to promote and increase the number of designated Ramsar *Wetlands of International Importance* in Wisconsin and the United States, and for our outreach and education programs that promote the ideals of the Ramsar Convention.
- In December, the USFWS announced that the **Kakagon and Bad River Sloughs** complex along Lake Superior's southern shore have been designated a **Ramsar Wetland of International Importance** – the *first* tribally-owned Ramsar site in the United States. This site is owned and was nominated by the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. This is the first Ramsar designation in Wisconsin since Wisconsin Wetlands Association initiated a strategic approach to identifying and nominating worthy Wisconsin wetlands for this prestigious international recognition. Kakagon and Bad River Sloughs is awaiting addition to the official Ramsar List of Sites by the Ramsar Secretariat.

Please join Wisconsin Wetlands Association and representatives from the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in celebrating these two important announcements at this special event during lunch on Thursday.



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

About the Kakagon and Bad River Sloughs



Photo of the Kakagon and Bad River Sloughs courtesy of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Located in the downstream portion of the Bad River Watershed and comprising a large portion of Lake Superior's coastal wetlands, the Kakagon and Bad River Sloughs complex is both culturally and ecologically significant. Its diverse habitats supports a vast array of species, such as *Manomin* (wild rice), *Ogaa* (walleye), and *Name* (lake sturgeon). This beautiful area has a long list of designations and recognitions including National Natural Landmark, Wisconsin Wetland Gem™, and Important Bird Area. The exceptional health of these wetlands is owed to the stewardship and protection provided by the Bad River Band.

Kakagon and Bad River Sloughs was ranked the #1 priority site for nomination by the Wisconsin Ramsar Committee as part of a WWA-led strategic approach to nominating globally-important wetlands in Wisconsin for designation as *Wetlands of International Importance*.



WEDNESDAY, February 22, 9:00 am - 9:00 pm

9:00 - 10:10 Plenary Session (Grand Ballroom)

9:00 Welcome & Opening comments
 Plenary Session: *The Economic Value of Urban Wetlands: Revealing our Best Investments*
 9:20 David Batker, Chief Economist and Executive Director at Earth Economics

10:10 - 10:40 Break (Grand Ballroom)

10:40 - 12:00 Concurrent Sessions

	Maple Lawn C	Wetland Restoration Techniques <i>Moderator: Art Kitchen</i>	Maple Lawn B	Management Planning for Wetlands <i>Moderator: Nick Miller</i>	Maple Lawn A	Working Group: Economics & Ecosystem Services <i>Moderator: Lynn Broaddus</i>
10:40	Matthews	Obstacles to defining and achieving success in compensatory wetland mitigation	Salas	Habitat management planning with the USFWS along large riverine systems of the Midwest	An exploration and discussion of opportunities to better measure, understand, and promote the economic value of wetlands with keynote speaker David Batker.	
11:00	Jensen, Jesse	Factors affecting degradation and recovery of aquatic ecological integrity in urbanizing watersheds (Pike River III)	Rosler	Status of Wisconsin's Beaver Management Plan		
11:20	Melchior	Eel River: A model for the restoration of retired cranberry bogs	Glenzinski	Big Muskego Lake: Preventing the forward switch		
11:40	Thompson, M.	The Walk Away System: A multi-benefit planting regime for wetland sites	Thompson, A.	Design features and adaptive management for restoring structure and function in an urban floodplain (Pike River II)		

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch (provided - Grand Ballroom)

1:00 - 2:40 Concurrent Sessions

	Maple Lawn C	Strategies for Prioritizing Restoration <i>Moderator: Eric Parker</i>	Maple Lawn B	Approaches to Wetland Mapping and Assessment <i>Moderator: Dreux Watermolen</i>	Maple Lawn A	History as a Factor in Wetland Restoration <i>Moderator: Joy Wolf</i>
1:00	Parker	Recognizing and understanding natural area remnants in urban wetland systems	Bernthal	Sorting out wetland change: What's really happening to wetlands on the landscape?	Wolf	Ephemeral pond diversity across varying basin attributes and land ownership
1:20	Miller, N.	Thinking like a watershed: A framework to align wetland mitigation actions and watershed conservation priorities	Griffin	Characterization and analysis of wetland restoration sites in Wisconsin	Bart	Land-use legacies and fen recovery after intensive agriculture
1:40	Brown	Using a GIS model to systematically prioritize potential wetland mitigation banks in Wisconsin	Powell	On the edge: Assessing vegetation for wetland delineation purposes in diverse urban wetlands in Minnesota	Johnson	Contrasting changes in urban and rural floodplain forests: A 55-year view from the understory
2:00	Smith, C.	Potentially Restorable Wetlands Version 2.1: A revised methodology for finding potentially restorable wetlands	Chappelle	Ephemeral pond identification using remote sensing techniques in southeastern Wisconsin's varied landscape	McLeester	Valuing wetlands: An archaeological perspective on the past and present use of wetlands
2:20	Wernerehl	EPA's National Wetland Condition Assessment in Wisconsin	Martin	Wetland forests in Wisconsin: Trends and restoration possibilities	Scherer	Marine diatoms in upper Midwest wetlands? Yes, it's true!

2:40 - 3:10 Break (Grand Ballroom)

3:10-4:50 Concurrent Sessions

	Maple Lawn C	Wetland Invasive Plants <i>Moderator: Kelly Kearns</i>	Maple Lawn B	Involving the Human Community <i>Moderator: Travis Olson</i>	Maple Lawn A	Working Group: Mining Wisconsin's Penokee <i>Moderator: Erin O'Brien</i>
3:10	Little	Riparian soil, reed canarygrass (<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>), and plant species richness in trout stream restorations	Ehlinger	Human-environmental history and establishing a framework for ecological restoration in an urbanizing watershed (Pike River I)	A panel presentation and group discussion of mining in Wisconsin's Penokee Range.	
3:30	Link	Non-native <i>Phragmites australis</i> may spread via cut stem fragments	Simpson	A weekend of restoration: Restoring a wetland and building community		
3:50	Geddes	Effects of native and non-native strains of <i>Phragmites australis</i> on freshwater wetlands	Grunert	Restoring an urban wetland: Lessons on strategy		
4:10	Springborn	A multi-partnered, landscape level approach to <i>Phragmites</i> control along Lake Michigan shores	Schwartz	Bird City Wisconsin: 39 communities win recognition for protecting urban wetlands and their inhabitants		
4:30	Zacharias	Economic and ecological trade-offs over six years of a long-term buckthorn removal experiment	Joyce-Krieg	Integrating natural areas into your community: Using mitigation for "out of the box" funding		

5:00 - 6:30 Poster Session & Cash Bar (Grand Ballroom & Ballroom Foyer)

6:30 - 9:00 Banquet & Presentation by Tracy Hames, Wisconsin Wetlands Association's new Executive Director (Ticketed event - Grand Ballroom). This event is sponsored by Ho-Chunk Nation

THURSDAY, February 23, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

8:30-9:20 Plenary Session (Maple Lawn C)

8:30 Welcome

Plenary Address for the Special Session: Biologist Without Borders: *Beyond Here There Be Dragons*

8:40 Ed Collins, Natural Resource Manager, McHenry County Conservation District (IL). This Special Session is sponsored by Chicago Wilderness

9:30 - 10:30 Concurrent Sessions

	Maple Lawn C	Biologist Without Borders - Ideas and Plans <i>Moderator: Jim Anderson</i>	Maple Lawn B	Habitat Needs for Wetland Wildlife 1 <i>Moderator: Josh Kapfer</i>	Maple Lawn A	Stormwater Management and Wetlands <i>Moderator: Vince Mosca</i>
9:30	Anderson	Biologists Across Borders: An overview of Chicago Wilderness	Rosler	Status of beaver in Wisconsin	Prellwitz	Soil stability and water quality within wetland treatment swales for urban runoff
9:50	Mengler	The Chicago Wilderness Green Infrastructure Vision	Glisson	Determining habitat requirements and restoration targets for secretive marshbirds	Doherty	Urban stormwater appears to increase productivity and decrease diversity in natural and engineered wetlands
10:10	Rogner	Millennium Reserve Calumet: Reinvesting in the ecology, culture and economy of the Calumet Region	Sloss	Genetic integrity and hybridization of Wisconsin gartersnakes	Somers	Permeable paver systems: Sustainable storm water management with permeable paving units

10:30 - 11:00 Break (Grand Ballroom)

11:00 - 12:00 Concurrent Sessions

	Maple Lawn C	Biologist Without Borders in Action <i>Moderator: Jim Anderson</i>	Maple Lawn B	Habitat Needs for Wetland Wildlife 2 <i>Moderator: Mary Linton</i>	Maple Lawn A	Wetland Restoration Case Studies <i>Moderator: Alice Thompson</i>
11:00	Maurer	Strategies for invasive plant management in the Chiwaukee Illinois Beach Lake Plain	Jensen, Jens	City of Middleton, Wisconsin, Harbor Village Northern Pike spawning habitat and streambank stabilization	Salas	Eco-engineering on the edge: Stream restoration, stabilization, and evaluation of risk and alternatives
11:20	Werner	Developing a restoration and management plan for a watershed with one creek in two states	Casper	Adventures in urban wetlands: a new crayfish for Wisconsin	Roth	Remeandering/relocating approximately 3 miles of Spring Creek through Hadley Valley Preserve (IL)
11:40	Martinka	Collaborating for water quality in the greater Milwaukee watersheds: The Sweet Water partnership	Van Dyke	Urban environments, amphibian biodiversity, and vernal pools: Does clustering affect community diversity?	Quartucci	Indiana toll road mitigation and urban restoration in Gary, Indiana

12:00 - 1:30 Lunch (provided) and Ramsar Celebration (Grand Ballroom)

1:30 - 2:00 Break

2:00 - 5:00 Field Trips & Working Groups

	Field Trips	Practitioners Working Group	Working Group: Formation of Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC)
2:00 - 5:00	<p><i>Prior sign up required; check at registration desk for remaining availability.</i></p> <p>* Turtle Valley Wildlife Area (departs from Ballroom Foyer)</p> <p>* The proposed Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge (departs from Maple Lawn Foyer)</p>	<p>Location: Maple Lawn B</p> <p><i>Moderator: Vince Mosca</i></p> <p>An opportunity for wetland practitioners – including consultants, federal, state, and local regulators, land managers, and others – to discuss current issues relevant to their daily work. The agenda will be set with the input of those who participated in a similar working group at the 2011 conference.</p>	<p>Location: Maple Lawn A</p> <p><i>Moderator: Gary Casper</i></p> <p>The official kick-off meeting for the new Wisconsin Chapter of Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation.</p>

We want your feedback!

Please complete the conference evaluation coming to your email inbox, or pick up a hard copy of the evaluation form at the registration desk.

Thank you.

POSTER SESSION

Posters will be available for viewing 8:00 am - 4:30 pm Weds. and Thurs. in the Maple Lawn Foyer. The Poster Session, when authors will be present to discuss their posters, will be Wednesday, 5:00 - 6:30 pm in the Ballroom Foyer.

Aten	A participatory 100-year plan for a wild place in Milwaukee's Menomonee Valley
Baum	Embracing Wisconsin wetlands for wellness
Belby	Mapping the vertical distribution of lead in the La Crosse River Marsh using X-ray image analysis and X-ray fluorescence
Brandt	Analysis of Northern Cricket Frog (<i>Acris crepitans</i>) overwintering ecology in Southwest WI
Brotkowski	Conservation genetics of Hine's Emerald Dragonfly (<i>Somatochlora nineana</i>) in heavily urbanized and minimally affected areas
Carson	Late Pleistocene - Holocene lakes in the lower Wisconsin River valley, southcentral Wisconsin
Casper	Midwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation
Erickson	Measuring the spatial distribution of lead contaminants in the La Crosse River Marsh
Geddes	Use of microsatellites in the identification of hybridizing cattail species in the <i>Typha</i> genus
Greene	Effects of <i>Typha x glauca</i> on aquatic macroinvertebrate communities in Northern Lake Huron Coastal Wetlands
Hardin	Biological inventory of forested ephemeral ponds in northern Wisconsin
Knapp	Hika Park concept designs
Korb	Salamander occurrence in the urban wetlands of Madison and Green Bay, Wisconsin
Linton	Pheasant Branch Conservancy Blanding's Turtle research by Middleton, WI, citizens: Many eyes and hands
Magyera	WWA's local outreach program: Integrating lake and wetland conservation
Miller	Explaining the differences in urban stormwater flow attenuation capabilities between adjacent constructed wetland swales
Montgomery	Phosphorus release from a restored farmed wetland in northeastern Illinois
Parker	Potentially mis-categorized wetland plant species of the NE-NC and Midwest Land Resource Regions of the U.S.
Patti	Control effort summaries for hairy willow herb (<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>) and reed manna grass (<i>Glyceria maxima</i>) in Racine Co., WI
Shackelford	Comparison of herbicide efficacy and damage to non-target plants in a SE Wisconsin sedge meadow
Slowinski	Re-meandering/relocating approximately 3 miles of Spring Creek through Hadley Valley Preserve
Smith	Southern cattail (<i>Typha domingensis</i>) new to Wisconsin
Stock	The effects of soil temperature on belowground amphibian hibernation in an urban versus rural environment
Strohl	Bureau of Land Management's islands in Wisconsin's big rivers
Trewartha	Japanese hops in the Platte River Watershed
von Ende	Highly plastic response in morphological and physiological traits to light, soil-N and moisture in the model invasive plant, <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>
Woods	Wisconsin's comprehensive wetland invasive species strategy formulated
Zedler	Learning to manage urban runoff that reaches the UW-Madison Arboretum
Zellmer	Blanding's Turtle conservation and educational efforts in a portion of Wisconsin affected by suburbanization



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

WORKING GROUPS

Please note that Working Groups are offered both Wednesday and Thursday, and that the Thursday Working Groups are held concurrent with the Conference Field Trips. No pre-registration is required for working groups.

Economics & Ecosystem Services Working Group

Wednesday, February 22, 10:40 am - 12:00 pm

Location: Maple Lawn A

Facilitator: Lynn Broaddus, Johnson Foundation

Join a conversation with our Keynote speaker David Batker of Earth Economics to explore and discuss opportunities to better measure, understand, and promote the economic value of wetlands. How can we as wetland professionals help to bring more information on the economic value of wetland ecosystem services into decision-making for projects, land use planning, and policy development? Who will do the analyses? Where should we start?

Mining Wisconsin's Penokee Range: An Update and Overview

Wednesday, February 22, 3:10 pm - 4:50 pm

Location: Maple Lawn A

Facilitator: Erin O'Brien, Wisconsin Wetlands Association

This session will include a panel presentation to describe wetland resources at and downstream from the proposed Gogebic Taconite mine; what the proposed mine would look like and how it would operate (based on other case studies); an overview of current state and federal processes for the review and approval of mining proposals; and an update on the status and content of any pending legislation. Questions for panelists and group discussion will follow the presentations.

Practitioners Working Group

Thursday, February 23, 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Location: Maple Lawn B

Facilitator: Vince Mosca, Hey & Associates

This session offers an opportunity for wetland practitioners—including consultants, federal, state, and local regulators, land managers, and others—to discuss current issues relevant to their daily work. The agenda will be set with the input of those who participated in a similar working group at the 2011 conference. Topics covered will likely include what's new with state wetland policies, including how they have or will change the review and approval of wetland development permits and associated compensatory mitigation requirements.

Wisconsin Chapter Formation: Partners in Amphibian & Reptile Conservation (PARC)

Thursday, February 23, 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Location: Maple Lawn A

Facilitators: Gary Casper with assistance from Mary Linton

This Working Group serves as the official kick-off meeting for the new Wisconsin Chapter of PARC. The new Wisconsin Chapter will support the PARC mission at the state level, focusing on conservation of Wisconsin amphibians and reptiles. This session will introduce the PARC organizational structure, review herp conservation initiatives and products from the Regional and National groups, and identify and prioritize the most important herp conservation issues for Wisconsin.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

WETLAND FIELD TRIPS

Thursday, February 23, 2:00 - 5:00 pm

Pre-registration was required and both field trips are filled and have waiting lists. Please see the registration desk if you will not attend a field trip for which you signed up so that your space can be freed up for someone on the waiting list. If you did not pre-register and would like to attend, please see the registration desk to find out if space might be available.

Please dress warmly and wear sturdy boots. Field trips will depart by bus at 2:00 pm from the Conference Center. Please arrive 10 minutes early to board the appropriate bus.

Turtle Valley Wildlife Area Wetland Restoration

Trip Leaders: Caroline Clarin, Agricultural Engineer, and Alice Klink, Area Biologist, NRCS
Departs from the Ballroom Foyer

This field trip will travel to Turtle Valley Wildlife Area and walk through an area that looks over the impoundment, which provides deep marsh, shallow marsh and wet meadow habitat. During the fieldtrip the guides will discuss the restoration efforts that have taken place in this rapidly urbanizing region and the role a wetland and wildlife area of this magnitude has on this part of the state.

Wisconsin Wetland Association's Wetland Gems program identified Turtle Valley Wildlife Area as a Workhorse Wetland, which illustrates the functional values of wetlands described in WDNR's Wisconsin Rapid Wetland Assessment Methodology including wildlife habitat, fishery habitat, flood/stormwater attenuation, water quality protection, shoreline protection, groundwater and recreation/education.



Hackmatack and Glacial Park Restoration

Trip Leaders: Lenore Beyer-Clow, Friends of Hackmatack and Openlands Project, and Gabe Powers, McHenry County Conservation District
Departs from the Maple Lawn Foyer

Come tour the glacial landscapes of the proposed Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge. We will travel south to see wetlands and watersheds that have been restored to provide habitat, prevent flooding and offer recreational opportunities to the residents of the region. At Glacial Park, a McHenry County Conservation District site, we will learn about the Lost Valley Marsh and how the removal of drain tiles created an amazing habitat for both migratory and local waterfowl. We will also see the re-meandered Nippersink Creek, one of the early success stories in restoring a straightened ditch back to its original curving banks. We will see other restored wetlands that are the result of partnerships with Ducks Unlimited habitat programs.

In addition, you will hear the story of how a grassroots group of conservationists and local citizens have moved from the idea of land preservation on a small scale to the potential creation of an urban national wildlife refuge. We will share how the idea hatched and the process it has gone through to be recognized as one of the ideas championed under the America's Great Outdoors initiative and has widespread local, regional and national support.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

More than 100 experts and enthusiasts have contributed to the planning and content of this conference. We would like to thank all of the presenters, field trips leaders, and working group leaders for sharing their expertise with the regional wetland and water resource professional community. While it is not feasible to acknowledge every contributor individually, we offer special thanks below to individuals who have made especially important contributions to this event.

MODERATORS

Thank you to the following partners for moderating conference sessions:

Jim Anderson, Lake County Forest Preserves
Lynn Broaddus, Johnson Foundation
Gary Casper, UW-Milwaukee Field Station
Kelly Kearns, Wisconsin DNR
Art Kitchen, WWA Board of Directors
Mary Linton, WWA Board Chair
Josh Kapfer, UW-Whitewater
Nick Miller, The Nature Conservancy

Vince Mosca, Hey and Associates
Erin O'Brien, Wisconsin Wetlands Association
Travis Olson, WI Coastal Management Program
Eric Parker, Stantec
Alice Thompson, Thompson & Assoc. Wetland Svcs.
Dreux Watermolen, Wisconsin DNR
Joy Wolf, UW-Parkside

Thank you to Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, Wisconsin DNR, The Nature Conservancy, Cardno-JFNew, and Hey and Associates for lending laptop computers and/or projectors for use during the conference sessions.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SPONSORS

Generous contributions made by The Nature Conservancy and We Energies have allowed us to provide financial support to many students who are attending our conference. These students are denoted with a * in the list of volunteers below.



VOLUNTEERS

We thank the following volunteers, and others we may have left out, for assisting us with the many and varied aspects of conference logistics:

Yaiyr Astudillo-Scalia*
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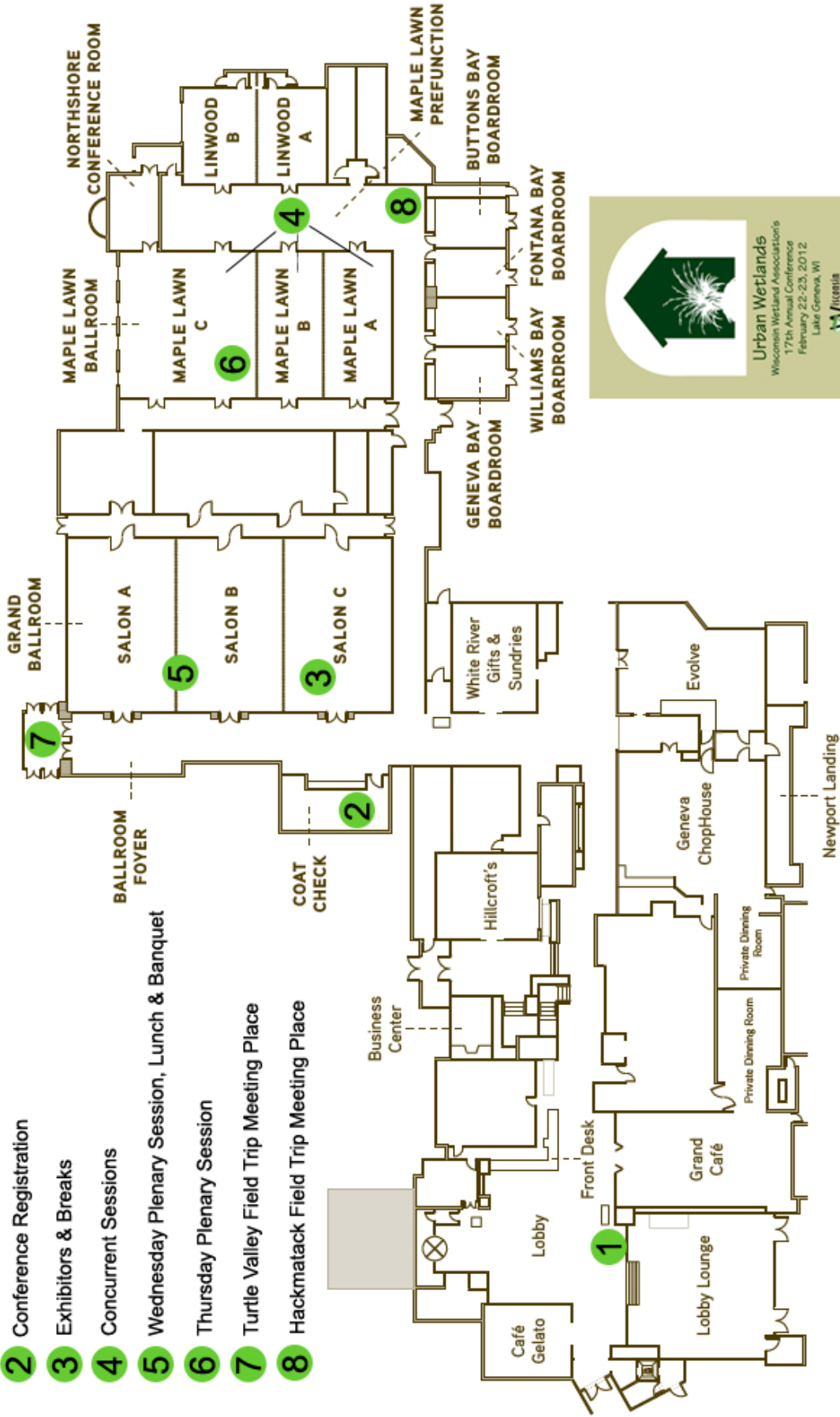
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Lenore Beyer-Clow, Friends of Hackmatack and Openlands Project
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Gabe Powers, McHenry County Conservation District



THE LODGE MAIN LEVEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

- 1 Pre Conference Social & Registration (Tuesday PM)
- 2 Conference Registration
- 3 Exhibitors & Breaks
- 4 Concurrent Sessions
- 5 Wednesday Plenary Session, Lunch & Banquet
- 6 Thursday Plenary Session
- 7 Turtle Valley Field Trip Meeting Place
- 8 Hackmatack Field Trip Meeting Place



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