



# DISCOVERING *wetlands*

WISCONSIN WETLANDS ASSOCIATION'S  
19TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 18 - 20, 2014  
LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN

WISCONSIN  
WETLANDS  
ASSOCIATION  
[www.wisconsinwetlands.org](http://www.wisconsinwetlands.org)



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## ABOUT WISCONSIN WETLANDS ASSOCIATION

Wisconsin Wetlands Association is dedicated to the protection, restoration, and enjoyment of wetlands and associated ecosystems through science-based programs, education, and advocacy. We envision a state where wetlands are healthy, plentiful, and support ecological and societal needs and where citizens care for, appreciate, and interact with these natural resources. We are a non-profit, non-partisan, member-supported conservation organization.

If you are not yet a member of Wisconsin Wetlands Association, we encourage you to show your support for wetlands and for our wetland conservation programs by becoming a member today!

Learn more and join online at [www.wisconsinwetlands.org](http://www.wisconsinwetlands.org).

## 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 2014. Learn more about World Wetlands Day at [www.ramsar.org](http://www.ramsar.org).

In 2012, Wisconsin Wetlands Association became the first U.S.-based entity to win the Wetlands Conservation Award for Education by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. We were honored for our work to promote and increase the number of designated Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance in Wisconsin and the United States as well as for our outreach and education programs that promote the ideals of the Ramsar Convention. We continue to work with Wisconsin wetland professionals and enthusiasts to nominate worthy Wisconsin wetlands, including the Kakagon and Bad River Sloughs (designated in 2012), the Lower Wisconsin Riverway, the Door Peninsula Coastal Wetlands, and Chiwaukee Prairie/Illinois Beach, for Ramsar designation.



MAKE IT SOCIAL



"Like" us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter @WIWetlandsAssoc. Share your conference experience!



# DISCOVERING wetlands

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# Welcome to Wisconsin Wetlands Association's 19th Annual Conference: *Discovering Wetlands*

Wetlands are an important tool for solving problems. From improving water quality to absorbing and storing flood waters, from providing space for recreation to improving quality of life, wetlands provide solutions to many community challenges.

This year's conference is being held on the banks of the Upper Mississippi River, an area recognized as both regionally and globally important. The area is a Wisconsin *Wetland Gem*® and was designated a *Wetland of International Importance* by the Ramsar Convention in 2010, one of only 35 such sites in the United States. The corridor's complex structure of islands, channels, oxbows, and sloughs include more than 51,000 acres of floodplain forest and 48,000 acres of marsh. Millions of dollars have been, and continue to be, invested in cutting edge techniques to restore and manage these important but highly altered natural systems, which are also crucial to commercial navigation and transportation and support local, regional, and national economies. This conference provides an opportunity for the wetland community to discuss the latest wetland science, management, restoration, and protection issues along the Mississippi River and throughout the region.

## CONFERENCE ADVISORY PANEL

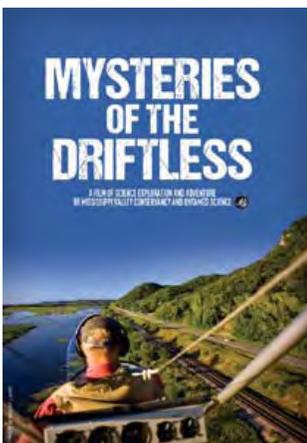
Numerous partners assisted in developing, planning, and reviewing the content of the conference program.

*We thank the following Advisory Panel participants for their contributions:*

Gretchen Benjamin, The Nature Conservancy  
Tom Bernthal, WDNR  
Eric Epstein, Ecologist  
Tim Gerber, UW-La Crosse  
Tracy Hames, Wisconsin Wetlands Association  
Roger Haro, UW-La Crosse  
Pat Heglund, US Fish & Wildlife Service  
Tod Highsmith, Wisconsin Wetlands Association Board  
Randy Hines, USGS  
Kelly Kearns, WDNR  
Brenda Kelly, WDNR  
Chuck Lee, UW-La Crosse  
Mary Linton, Snapping Linton Ecology

Nick Miller, The Nature Conservancy  
Jim Nissen, US Fish & Wildlife Service  
Doug Norris, MN DNR  
Tracy Noyes, UW-La Crosse Continuing Education  
Travis Olson, Wisconsin Coastal Management Program  
Randy Poelma, Ho-Chunk Nation  
Ken Powell, MN Board of Water & Soil Resources  
Marc Schultz, UW-Extension  
Meredith Thomsen, UW-La Crosse  
Pat Trochlell, WDNR  
Dreux Watermolen, WDNR  
John Wetzel, Wisconsin Wetlands Association Board  
Paul Zedler, UW-Madison Nelson Institute

*WWA staff supporting the Panel: Katie Beilfuss, Stephani Pescitelli, and Tara Davenport*



## Film Screening & Social

Tuesday, February 18, 6:30-9:00 pm

Location: Radisson Hotel Ballroom

*Thank you to Gundersen Health System for their generous sponsorship of this event.*

Join us for this conference opening event to socialize with your wetland friends and colleagues and view the award-winning film, *Mysteries of the Driftless*. This extraordinary documentary is about a team of explorers and scientists kayaking down deeply cut tributary valleys, flying in ultralights, and climbing rocky bluffs to reveal answers to the mysteries within the driftless area. The movie's producers will be available to answer questions and participate in discussions following the film. Cash bar and simple snacks provided.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Wednesday, February 19, 9:00-10:10 am

Location: La Crosse Center Ballroom

#### ***Trapped by History: The Past and Future of the Upper Mississippi River***

Dr. John O. Anfinson, Chief of Resource Management for the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area



The Mississippi River today has become an artifact of human construction because of what humans have done to it over the past 150 years. Navigation improvements, floodplain levees, a refuge, and even early biological manipulations have transformed the Upper Mississippi River's physical and ecological character. A key question we face today is: Are we trapped by that history, or can we make changes that will ensure that the river's ecosystems, including wetlands, are healthy and abundant? In his presentation, Dr. John O. Anfinson will try to answer this question and hint at where the Upper Mississippi River and its wetlands may be headed.

#### About the Speaker

John O. Anfinson holds a PhD in American History from the University of Minnesota. He has been researching, writing, and speaking about the Upper Mississippi River for over 25 years. In 2005 John was one of ten U.S. delegates to the joint U.S./Dutch symposium on water resources at The Hague, Netherlands sponsored by the Institute for Water Resources and the Rijkswaterstaat. More recently, John helped initiate the Asian Carp Task Force for Minnesota and serves as co-chair of the effort.

### **Symposium: Pool-scale Drawdowns to Restore Wetland Habitat in the Upper Mississippi River**

Wednesday, February 19, 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Location: La Crosse Center Ballroom B

The Upper Mississippi River (UMR) has been developed and subsequently managed for commercial navigation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by creating a series of lock and dam structures. These navigation pools initially provided a complex of aquatic habitats supporting a variety of fish and wildlife, including substantial wetlands characterized by perennial aquatic plants. This symposium will provide background information on the complex social-political process involved in planning and implementing pool-scale drawdowns on the UMR, and summarize available information on abiotic and biotic responses associated with drawdowns of navigation Pools 5, 6 and 8. Insights are provided based on more than 17 years of experience in planning and implementing drawdowns on the UMR.

*This symposium was organized by Stephen Winter, USFWS, Kevin Kenow, USGS, and Teresa Newton, USGS.*

#### **Symposium Presenters**

Gretchen Benjamin, The Nature Conservancy  
Mike Kennedy, Public Citizen Stakeholder  
Kevin Kenow, USGS  
Thomas Custer, USGS  
Christine Custer, USGS

Stephen Winter, USFWS  
Teresa Newton, USGS  
William Richardson, USGS  
Tim Schlagenhaft, Audubon Minnesota  
Yao Yin, USGS

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### BANQUET PRESENTATION

Wednesday, February 19, banquet 6:30 pm, presentation 7:30 pm

Location: La Crosse Center Mississippi Riverview Room

*Thank you to J.F. Brennan Company Inc. for their generous sponsorship of this event.*

#### *The Life of a River Rat: Tales from the Upper Mississippi River*

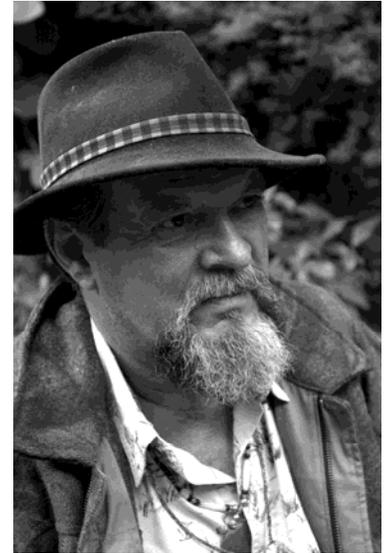
Kenny Salwey, the "Last River Rat"

It's been said that you never step into the same river twice, because change is the only constant along a river. Explore the ever-changing Upper Mississippi River with master storyteller Kenny Salwey as he presents adventures and wisdom gleaned from a lifetime of experiences on the river. Salwey knows the river ecosystem with an intimacy unavailable to most. He'll share his love of and knowledge about the mighty river, including tales of river rats, hill folk, and swamp dogs.

#### About the Speaker

Kenny Salwey is the last of a breed of men whose lifestyle has all but disappeared in this fast-paced, high-tech digital world. For 30 years, this weathered woodsman eked out a living running a trapline, hiring out as a river guide, digging and selling roots and herbs, and eating the food he hunted and fished. By sharing his hard learned experiences, his respect for the Mississippi River, and his love of the natural world, Salwey hopes to inspire his audiences to protect this precious and fragile ecosystem.

**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.**



### PLENARY PRESENTATION

Thursday, February 20, 8:30-9:20 am

Location: La Crosse Center Ballroom

#### *Wetlands of the Bad River Watershed*

Tracy Hames, Executive Director, Wisconsin Wetlands Association

Wetlands play a key role in maintaining healthy hydrologic conditions throughout watersheds. This role is frequently unrecognized or misunderstood in land use decision making. It is also rare to see intact hydrologic conditions in watersheds in our altered landscapes. The Bad River watershed in northern Wisconsin offers a terrific example of a watershed whose wetlands, particularly those at the top of the watershed, are largely healthy and intact. WWA Executive Director Tracy Hames will draw on his experiences exploring these wetlands over the past year to give us a tour of the wetlands of the Bad River Watershed and to illustrate the key role they play in maintaining healthy hydrologic conditions throughout the watershed. Following the presentation, all interested are invited to join in a discussion period to continue the conversation about these resources, the research and data needs of the watershed, and strategies for preservation.

#### About the Speaker

Tracy Hames became Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wetlands Association in November 2011. 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 in Washington state. He received a BA in Biology and Environmental Studies from Macalester College, St. Paul, MN in 1984, and a MS in Natural Resources from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point in 1990.



## SPECIAL SESSIONS

### **Floristic Quality Assessment as a Wetland Monitoring Tool: Science and Practice in the Midwest**

Wednesday, February 19, 10:40 am-3:10 pm

Location: La Crosse Center Ballroom C

Floristic Quality Assessment (FQA) is increasingly being used for evaluating wetland plant communities in a number of contexts in Wisconsin, neighboring states, and across the country. This symposium will feature speakers from Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois discussing their work in research and development of applications utilizing FQA as a monitoring tool to characterize wetland plant community condition. The concept of species conservatism at the heart of FQA, treatment of native and introduced species, and the use of Mean C and Floristic Quality Index as the basic indices in FQA will be introduced at the start of the session. Speakers will examine issues related to survey methods, such as timed meander surveys (using measures of cover to produce weighted indices) and plot-based sampling (using cover and frequency to produce relative importance values). Examples of projects to derive FQA-based benchmarks for establishing biological condition categories, use of FQA benchmarks in probabilistic regional wetland assessments, and use of FQA to monitor trends on wetland restoration sites and effectiveness of management methods will be presented. The development of a Rapid Floristic Quality Assessment method utilizing a partial list of plant taxa in a region will also be presented. The session will end with a facilitated discussion of appropriate future use of FQA methods and tools for calculating and analyzing FQA metrics.

*This special session was organized by Tom Bernthal, WDNR.*

#### **Special Session Presenters:**

Tom Bernthal, WDNR

Mike Bourdaghs, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Paul Hlina, UW-Superior

Jeffrey Matthews, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Ryan O'Connor, WDNR

Heather Patti, R.A. Smith National, Inc

Nicholas Danz, UW-Superior

### **Wetland Delineation: Wetland Determination, Types and Jurisdiction**

Wednesday, February 19, 3:40-5:00 pm

Location: La Crosse Center Ballroom C

In the United States, wetlands are regulated under the Clean Water Act (Section 404). Determination of the wetland boundary, termed wetland delineation, following the US Army Corps of Engineers 1987 manual and recent regional supplement additions is critical for their regulation. The wetland delineation process therefore legally identifies where a wetland starts and stops. Many people, however, do not understand the process of wetland boundary determination. Therefore, presentations for this session will focus on the history of wetland boundary determination, the wetland delineation process, types of wetlands found in Minnesota and Wisconsin, and relevant policies which affect the wetland delineation process and regulation. A question and answer session will follow speaker presentations.

*This special session was organized by Tim Gerber, UW-La Crosse.*

#### **Special Session Presenters:**

Steve Eggers, USACE

Tom Nedland, WDNR

Pat Trochlell, WDNR

Tim Smith, USACE

# WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 9:00 AM - 9:30 PM

## 9:00 - 10:10 Plenary Session (La Crosse Center Ballroom)

9:00 Welcome & Opening comments

9:20 Conference Keynote: *Trapped by History: The Past and Future of the Upper Mississippi River*

John O. Anfinson, PhD, National Park Service

## 10:10 - 10:40 Break (La Crosse Center Ballroom Foyer) - Thank you to J.F. Brennan Company, Inc. for their generous sponsorship of this break.

## 10:40 - 12:00 Concurrent Sessions

	Location: Ballroom A	Invasive Species <i>Moderator: Randy Poelma</i>	Location: Ballroom B	Wetlands and People <i>Moderator: Travis Olson</i>	Location: Ballroom C	SPECIAL SESSION: Floristic Quality Assessment as a Wetland Monitoring Tool <i>Moderator: Tom Bernthal</i>
10:40	Salas	Prioritizing large-scale invasive species management on tribal lands: Where do we start?	Markham	Keeping lakes and wetlands in the family: Sharing the magic through stories	Matthews	A null model approach for testing the validity of plant species' coefficients of conservatism
11:00	Thobaben	Evaluation of treatment cost and floristic quality in plant communities after 8 years of buckthorn removal	Highsmith	Discovering a world of wetland monsters	Hlina	Setting floristic benchmarks for the Lake Superior basin in northern Wisconsin
11:20	Boos	New wetland invaders: Revisions to Wisconsin's invasive species rule	Conaway	Bad River Ojibwe and the good seed: Stewarding water and wild rice with Bad River Youth Outdoors	Bourdaghs	Status and trends of wetlands in Minnesota: Statewide vegetation quality baseline
11:40	Budyak	Effects of selectively-targeted imazapyr applications on <i>Typha angustifolia</i> in species-rich wetlands	Linton	Fish, fowl, flood, water lily mud: Using poetry to get to the heart of wetlands	O'Connor	Using floristic quality assessments to assess biodiversity on riverine islands

## 12:00 - 1:30 Lunch (provided, Radisson Center Ballroom)

## 1:30 - 3:10 Concurrent Sessions

	Location: Ballroom A	Wetland Mitigation <i>Moderator: Doug Norris</i>	Location: Ballroom B	SYMPOSIUM: Pool-scale Drawdowns to Restore Wetland Habitat in the Upper Mississippi River <i>Moderator: Stephen Winter</i>	Location: Ballroom C	SPECIAL SESSION: Floristic Quality Assessment as a Wetland Monitoring Tool <i>Moderator: Tom Bernthal</i>
1:30	Miller	The Watershed Approach Handbook: Restoring watershed health & services via regulatory & voluntary conservation	Benjamin	Breaking the rules: Tweaking water levels to benefit aquatic systems without impacting commercial navigation	Bernthal	Benchmarks 2016 – A strategy for setting floristic quality assessment benchmarks for Wisconsin wetlands
1:50	Roth	In-lieu fee mitigation in practice: The O'Hare modernization mitigation account	Kennedy	Pool-scale drawdowns on the Upper Mississippi River: Stakeholder involvement is the key to success	Bourdaghs	Development of a rapid floristic quality assessment
2:10	Powell	Assigning wetland mitigation credit in Minnesota: A mix of science and policy	Kenow	Vegetation response to pool-scale drawdowns on the Upper Mississippi River	Patti	Applying the FQA method to multi-year vegetation data along the restored Pike River in Mount Pleasant, WI
2:30	Joyce	Hydrology study for a proposed wetland mitigation bank along the Iowa River, Iowa: Lessons learned	Yin	Detecting the lasting effects of water level drawdown on aquatic vegetation in Upper Mississippi River Pool 8	Danz	Floristic quality of Wisconsin coastal wetlands
2:50	Parish	Pebble Creek hillslope wetlands: Hydrologic significance and minimizing impacts from the West Waukesha bypass	Winter	Shorebird and waterfowl response to pool-scale drawdowns: Information available vs information needed	Floristic Quality Assessment Discussion	

## 3:10 - 3:40 Break (La Crosse Center Ballroom Foyer)

## 3:40 - 5:00 Concurrent Sessions

	Location: Ballroom A	Native Wetland Flora <i>Moderator: Dreux Watermolen</i>	Location: Ballroom B	SYMPOSIUM: Pool-scale Drawdowns to Restore Wetland Habitat in the Upper Mississippi River <i>Moderator: Stephen Winter</i>	Location: Ballroom C	SPECIAL SESSION: Wetland Delineation: Wetland Determination, Types, and Jurisdiction <i>Moderator: Tim Gerber</i>
3:40	Bart	When the rich get productive, does native-species richness promote invasion resistance in WI fens?	Newton	Behavior of native mussels during a planned water level drawdown in Pool 6 of the Upper Mississippi River	Eggers	Evolution of the wetland delineation process in the United States
4:00	Little	Characterizing the vegetation communities of western Wisconsin ephemeral ponds	Richardson	Pool-scale drawdowns and nitrogen dynamics in the Upper Mississippi River	Nedland	An introduction to wetland delineation protocols in Wisconsin
4:20	McConnel	Cranberry marsh/native wild rice bed conversion project	Custer	Water level management and contaminant exposure to tree swallows nesting on the Upper Mississippi River	Trochlell	Wetland plant communities of the upper midwest
4:40	Sulman	Discovering Wisconsin's bur-reeds: Species diversity, growth form divergence, & habitat specialization	Schlagenhaft	Pool-scale drawdowns on the Upper Mississippi River - what next?	Smith	Clean Water Act jurisdiction: Which wetlands/waters are regulated?

## 5:00 - 6:30 Poster Session & Cash Bar (La Crosse Center Ballroom Foyer)

## 6:30 - 9:30 Banquet & Presentation (Ticketed event - Mississippi Riverview)

7:30 Banquet Presentation: *The Life of a River Rat: Tales from the Upper Mississippi River*

Kenny Salwey, the "Last River Rat." Thank you to J.F. Brennan Company, Inc., for their generous sponsorship of this event.

# THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

**8:30-9:20 Plenary Session (La Crosse Center Ballroom)**

**8:30 Welcome**

**Plenary Address: Wetlands of the Bad River Watershed**

**8:40 Tracy Hames, Executive Director, Wisconsin Wetlands Association**

**9:20 - 9:30 Break (La Crosse Center Ballroom Foyer)**

**9:30 - 10:30 Concurrent Sessions**

	<b>Location: Ballroom A</b> <b>Wetland Restoration I</b> <i>Moderator: Nick Miller</i>	<b>Location: Ballroom B</b> <b>Mining Discussion</b> <i>Moderators: Tracy Hames &amp; Erin O'Brien</i>	<b>Location: Ballroom C</b> <b>Upper Mississippi River Wetlands</b> <i>Moderator: John Wetzel</i>
<b>9:30</b>	<b>Waupochick</b> A landscape-scale wetland functional assessment and identification of potential wetland restoration sites for the Stockbridge-Munsee Community	<b>Tillison</b> Wild rice ecosystem management in the Kakagon/Bad River Sloughs complex	<b>Winter</b> Habitat management planning at the Upper Mississippi River NW&FR: Protecting wetland communities and species
<b>9:50</b>	<b>Strojny</b> Different approaches to wetland restoration across Minnesota	Join Tracy Hames, Erin O'Brien, Naomi Tillison, and others for a discussion of wetland, watershed, and policy issues related to the proposed iron mine in Northern Wisconsin.	<b>Frost</b> History of the La Crosse River Marsh
<b>10:10</b>	<b>Henderson</b> Discovering a wetland in tiled peat-muck soils		<b>Fleener</b> Discovering the state waterfowl stamp program: Your stamp dollars at work

**10:30 - 11:00 Break (La Crosse Center Ballroom Foyer)**

	<b>Location: Ballroom A</b> <b>Wetland Restoration II</b> <i>Moderator: Sarah Johnson</i>	<b>(Working Group) My Healthy Wetlands: A Handbook for Wisconsin Wetland Landowners</b> <b>Location: Boardroom A</b> <i>Moderator: Katie Beiffuss</i>	<b>Location: Ballroom C</b> <b>Wetland Wildlife</b> <i>Moderator: Dreux Watermolen</i>
<b>11:00</b>	<b>Flood</b> Monitoring and assessment of the Green Bay Cat Island Chain habitat restoration project	This working group session will build on the session held at WWA's 2013 conference. WWA staff will present the project's purpose, review the book's outline and components, and discuss the plans for distributing this handbook in Northeast Wisconsin.	<b>Casper</b> Matching critical habitat needs to conservation opportunities: A new fish and wildlife planning tool
<b>11:20</b>	<b>Shaw</b> Lessons learned in planting wetlands		<b>Havranek</b> Common Carp ( <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> ) mitigation in the restoration of Wild Rice ( <i>Zizania palustris</i> ) in shallow lakes
<b>11:40</b>	<b>Hutchins</b> Time-lapse photography: A new technique to help the public discover wetland restoration and management in MN		<b>Kirsch</b> Tree species preferences of foraging birds during spring migration in Upper Mississippi River floodplain forests

**12:00 - 1:30 Lunch (provided) and Presentation (Radisson Center Ballroom)**

**1:30 - 4:30 Field Trips & Working Groups**

### Working Groups

<b>1:30 - 4:30</b>	<b>Ramsar Nomination for Lower WI River (by invitation)</b> <b>Location: Boardroom B</b> <i>Moderator: Jean Unmuth</i>	<b>Practitioners Working Group</b> <b>Location: Ballroom A</b> <i>Moderator: Heather Patti</i>
	This is the inaugural meeting of a group of individuals who are collaborating to complete a nomination package for the Lower Wisconsin River to be designated a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance. The Lower Wisconsin River was identified as a priority site by the Wisconsin Ramsar Committee for nomination for this prestigious designation. <i>Meeting is by invitation only.</i>	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 recent WWA conferences.

### Field Trips (all field trips will depart from the entrance to the La Crosse Center on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street)

<i>Prior sign up required; check at registration desk for remaining availability.</i>	<i>Prior sign up required; check at registration desk for remaining availability.</i>	<i>Prior sign up required; check at registration desk for remaining availability.</i>
* Exploring La Crosse Wetlands <i>Thank you to Hey and Associates, Inc. for their generous sponsorship of this trip.</i>	* Goose Island Restoration Project <i>Thank you to the International Crane Foundation for their generous sponsorship of this trip.</i>	* Root River Tract Restoration Project <i>Thank you to American Transmission Company for their generous sponsorship of this trip.</i>



We want your feedback!

Please complete the conference evaluation coming to your email inbox.

Thank you!

# POSTER SESSION

Posters will be available for viewing 8:00 am-4:30 pm Wednesday and Thursday in the La Crosse Center Ballroom Foyer. The Poster Session, when authors will be present to discuss their posters, will be held Wednesday, 5:00-6:30 pm.

The poster session and Wednesday evening social is sponsored by Midwest Groundcovers, LLC.

<b>Barrette</b>	Forming weed management partnerships to control Japanese knotweed in the driftless area
<b>Bednar</b>	Rediscovering trapping potential for phosphorus-laden sediment in an agricultural wetland on Dorn Creek
<b>Church</b>	The Chippewa Moraine ephemeral ponds project
<b>Davenport</b>	Fens, plowing, and fire - Oh my!
<b>Gehant</b>	Seasonal trends in permanent and ephemeral wetland water chemistry
<b>Glenzinski</b>	Designing symbiotic fish and wildlife enhancements in Green Bay
<b>Henderson</b>	Wetland and stream restoration projects in a prairie/grassland landscape
<b>Huerth</b>	Determination of metal contamination in the La Crosse River Marsh
<b>Jackson</b>	The Wisconsin Odonata Survey: A successful application of citizen monitoring
<b>Janisch</b>	Establishing baseline water quality conditions in the Penokee Hills and headwaters of the Bad River Watershed
<b>Kilibarda</b>	Tadpole size in permanent and ephemeral wetlands in western Wisconsin
<b>Martzke</b>	Expediting difficult wetland mitigation and permitting with early agency coordination
<b>Martzke</b>	Relocating and preserving dune-swale wetland vegetation: Achievements and lessons learned
<b>McIntyre</b>	Evaluating success of four planting methods versus natural regeneration of a wet floodplain forest in Illinois
<b>Nieset</b>	Floodplain wetland restoration: Comparing two large wetland mitigation banks along the Illinois River
<b>Rudolph</b>	Spatial ecology, habitat use and survival rates of headstarted Blanding's turtles ( <i>Emydoidea blandingii</i> )
<b>Schumacher</b>	Promoting "Best Management Practices for Preventing the Spread of Wetland Invasive Species" to new audiences
<b>Schumacher</b>	Proposed additions to the Invasive Species Rule (NR40): Prohibited and restricted wetland plants
<b>Siwula</b>	The impacts of storm water runoff on sediment microbial community structure and function in an urban wetland
<b>Skawinski</b>	Manual removal of Eurasian watermilfoil: Strategies for reduction or elimination of early populations
<b>Slate</b>	Diatom and sponge bioindicators preserved in sediment from Volo Bog in northern Illinois
<b>Smith</b>	Environmental factors influencing wood frog ( <i>Lithobates sylvaticus</i> ) tadpole size
<b>Stushek</b>	Japanese knotweed ( <i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i> ) early detection removal methods for volunteers
<b>Woods</b>	Strategizing for control of non-native <i>Phragmites australis</i> in Wisconsin

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## WETLAND FIELD TRIPS

Thursday, February 20, 1:30-4:30 pm

*Pre-registration for field trips was required. 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 run in almost any weather (with the exception of hazardous conditions). **All field trips will depart by bus at 1:30 pm from the entrance of the La Crosse Center.** Please arrive 10 minutes early to board the appropriate bus.*

### Exploring La Crosse Wetlands

Trip Leader: Chuck Lee, UW-La Crosse and founder, Friends of the La Crosse River Marsh

*Thank you to Hey and Associates, Inc. for their generous sponsorship of this event.*

This field trip will begin at the Myrick-Hixon Eco Park in La Crosse, located on the southern edge of a 1200 acre urban wetland. We will proceed along maintained trails into what has been called one of the best urban wetlands in the state. Next, we will travel by bus approximately four miles up the La Crosse River valley to another section of the extensive wetlands and floodplain associated with the river and visit an area that has been preserved by a partnership between the Mississippi Valley Conservancy, Gundersen Health Care, and the City of Onalaska. Here too, via well maintained trails, we can walk to the river and back.

### Goose Island Restoration Project

Trip Leaders: Bobby Jackson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineer, St. Paul District

*Thank you to the International Crane Foundation for their generous sponsorship of this event.*

The Goose Island project site consists of 78 acres that was dominated by black locust trees (*Robinia pseudoacacia*). However, over several years of intense management it has been restored back to a more diverse native flood plain forest. The project site is above the seasonal floodplain. This field trip will begin at the southern point of Goose Island County Campground where we will proceed along Wigwam trail to the first direct seeding site that was planted in 2010. Next we will hike through the forest to sites that were planted in 2004, and end at the sites that were planted in spring 2013 near Hunter Point Boat Landing.

### Root River Tract Restoration Project

Trip Leader: Jim Nissen, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, La Crosse District Manager

*Thank you to American Transmission Company for their generous sponsorship of this event.*

The Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge's Root River Tract will be the subject of this field trip. Located along the Root River east of Highway 26 in Houston County, MN, this 664-acre tract consists of a mixture of agricultural land, floodplain forest, and wetlands, including an impoundment system. Most of the tract is low-lying and subject to annual flooding from the Mississippi River or from the Root River during higher stage events. Prior to acquisition in 2009, this tract was privately-owned and managed as a shooting preserve for many years. Water levels in several impoundments were manipulated through the use of a pump and water control structures to provide habitat for waterfowl. A Hydrogeomorphic (HGM) evaluation of the tract was completed in late 2010. This science-based approach uses physical and ecological attributes, analysis of man-made manipulations, and current and historic records of, and to, the landscape to create a scaled habitat management plan. We will hike a portion of the tract and discuss how recommendations in the evaluation are being used to guide future restoration and management activities.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## WORKING GROUPS

### **My Healthy Wetlands: A Handbook for Wisconsin Wetland Landowners**

Thursday, February 20, 11:00am-12:00pm

Location: La Crosse Center Boardroom A

Facilitator: Katie Beilfuss, Wisconsin Wetlands Association

Wisconsin Wetlands Association is producing a new handbook for private wetland landowners. The handbook is modeled after an award-winning and highly successful handbook for woodland landowners produced by the Aldo Leopold Foundation. The My Healthy Wetlands handbook will be an important tool for reaching private wetland landowners with information about what wetlands are, why they matter, and how to care for them. The handbook will be easy to read, informative, inspirational, and attractive. The pilot edition of this handbook will be focused on Northeast Wisconsin wetlands.

This working group session will build on the session held at WWA's 2013 conference. WWA staff will present the project's purpose, review the book's outline and components, and discuss the plans for distributing this handbook in Northeast Wisconsin. We will also seek feedback from participants on draft sections of the handbook, invite suggestions for our distribution plan, acknowledge the many partners who are contributing to the project, and discuss the best opportunities to pursue in the near future (building on the handbook) in order to meet the needs of Wisconsin wetland landowners.

*Please note that the following Working Groups are held concurrent with the Conference Field Trips on Thursday afternoon. No pre-registration is required for working groups.*

### **Practitioners Working Group**

Thursday, February 20, 1:30-4:30 pm

Location: La Crosse Center Ballroom A

Facilitator: Heather Patti, R.A. Smith National, Inc.

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 recent WWA conferences. 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.

### **The Ramsar Nomination Working Group for Lower WI River** (by invite only)

Thursday, February 20, 1:30-4:30 pm

Location: La Crosse Center Boardroom B

Facilitator: Jean Unmuth, WDNR

This is the inaugural meeting of a group of individuals who are collaborating to complete a nomination package for the Lower Wisconsin River to be designated a Ramsar *Wetland of International Importance*. The Lower Wisconsin River was identified as a priority site by the Wisconsin Ramsar Committee for nomination for this prestigious designation. If you would like more information or are interested in participating in this working group (or otherwise helping with or supporting the nomination of this site), please contact Jean Unmuth (608-935-1926; jean.unmuth@wisconsin.gov).

# 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:*

Randy Poelma, Ho-Chunk Nation	Tom Bernthal, WDNR
Doug Norris, Minnesota DNR	Tim Gerber, UW-La Crosse
John Wetzel, WWA Board of Directors	Sarah Johnson, Northland College
Travis Olson, Wisconsin Coastal Management Program	Heather Patti, R.A. Smith National, Inc.
Dreux Watermolen, WDNR	Jean Unmuth, WDNR
Nick Miller, The Nature Conservancy	Stephen Winter, USFWS

*Thank you to The Nature Conservancy, the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, Cardno JFNew, and WDNR for lending laptop computers for use during the conference sessions.*

## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SPONSORS

Generous contributions made by The Nature Conservancy and Wisconsin Energy Foundation have allowed us to provide financial support to many students who are attending our conference. Students receiving conference scholarships are denoted with a \* in the list of volunteers below.



## VOLUNTEERS

We thank the following volunteers for assisting us with the many and varied aspects of conference logistics (\* denotes student scholarship recipient):

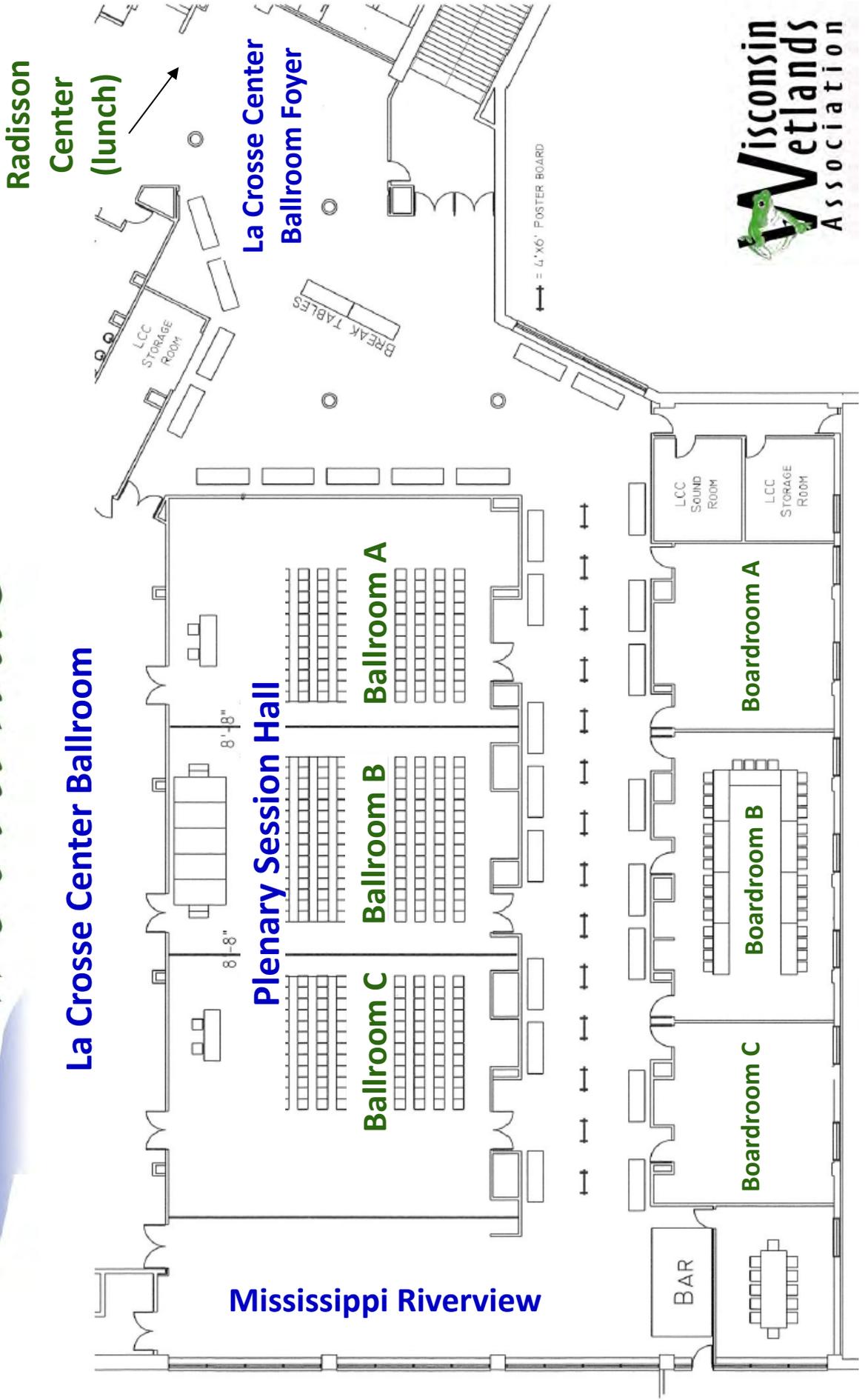
Melis Arik*	Rachel Huerth*	Angela Puerta*
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Laura Fields-Sommers*	Danya Kim*	Allie Vitello*
Korin Franklin*	Brianna Kupsky*	Ying Zhan*
Lee Hengescht	Matthew Peter*	

## FIELD TRIP LEADERS

Thank you to the following individuals for their assistance planning, coordinating, and leading our conference field trips to wetlands near La Crosse:

Tim Gerber, UW-La Crosse  
Bobby Jackson, USACE, St. Paul District  
Jim Nissen, USFWS, La Crosse District Manager  
Chuck Lee, UW-La Crosse and founder, Friends of the La Crosse River Marsh

# DISCOVERING wetlands



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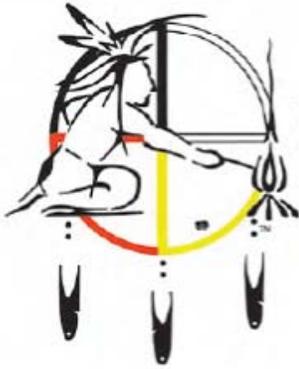
Wisconsin Wetlands Association thanks all of our sponsors for their support of this conference, without which this conference would not be possible. Those sponsors marked with an asterisk (\*) have booths in the Exhibit Hall in the La Crosse Center Ballroom Foyer. Please visit these exhibitors and thank them for supporting this conference!

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