

THE LAND TRUST ALLIANCE IS PLEASED TO PRESENT THE

2014 MIDWEST

Land Conservation Conference



PROGRAM

Connecting Communities to Land and Water

April 8 – 10, 2014 | Holland, Michigan

Haworth Inn & Conference Center

**Thank you to the Midwest Conference Program Committee, the conference sponsors,
and the faculty who are volunteering their time, knowledge and expertise.**

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Megan Olds

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John Sentell

Lake Forest Open Lands Association (IL)

Michael Strigel

Gathering Waters Conservancy (WI)

Carolyn Waldron

Land Trust Alliance Midwest Program (IN)

On the cover (photos from left): Galien River Canoe Tour, courtesy of Chikaming Open Lands. Dayton Wet Prairie Preserve, courtesy of Chikaming Open Lands. Pilgrim Haven, courtesy of Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy/Peter Ter Louw, photographer.

EXHIBITORS

All exhibits are located in the Skylight Room near Registration

Gathering Waters Conservancy
Mayes | Wilson & Associates, LLC
Openlands
The Conservation Fund

ACCREDITED LAND TRUSTS FROM THE MIDWEST REGION

Congratulations to the following land trusts for earning the seal of Excellence, Trust and Permanence awarded by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission

Bayfield Regional Conservancy (WI)
Caledonia Conservancy (WI)
Central Indiana Land Trust (IN)
Chikaming Open Lands (MI)*
Chippewa Watershed Conservancy (MI)
Ducks Unlimited
Gates Mills Land Conservancy (OH)
Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (MI)
Ice Age Trail Alliance (WI)
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (IA)
Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (IL)
Johnson County Heritage Trust (IA)
Kansas Land Trust (KS)
Kettle Moraine Land Trust (WI)
Kinnickinnic River Land Trust (WI)
Lake Forest Open Lands Association (IL)
Land Conservancy of West Michigan (MI)

Leelanau Conservancy (MI)
Legacy Land Conservancy (MI)
Little Forks Conservancy (MI)
Michigan Nature Association (MI)
Minnesota Land Trust (MN)
Mississippi Valley Conservancy (WI)
Nebraska Land Trust (NE)
North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy (MI)
Northern Prairies Land Trust (SD)
Northwoods Land Trust (WI)
Openlands (IL)
Ozaukee Washington Land Trust (WI)
Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy (MI)
Tecumseh Land Trust (OH)
The Nature Conservancy
Three Valley Conservation Trust (OH)



**Chikaming Open Lands in Michigan is the first land trust in Midwest to earn renewal accreditation.*

Schedule of Events

*All sessions and events will be held at the Haworth Inn & Conference Center unless otherwise noted.
Please see the Haworth Floor Plan in the back of the program on page 11.*

Tuesday, April 8th

1:00PM–5:00PM

Registration

Lobby

1:30PM–5:00PM

Field Trip to Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area

Departs Lobby

LEADERS: Vaughn Maatman and April Scholtz, Land Conservancy of West Michigan

After more than two decades of work by the local community and conservation groups, Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area was established in 2011. During this onsite discussion and field visit, representatives from Land Conservancy of West Michigan, Kirk Harrier, Saugatuck City manager, and Patty Birkholz, former state senator and current west Michigan director of the League of Conservation Voters, will discuss how they worked together to protect this magnificent 173-acre dune and wetland ecosystem at the mouth of the Kalamazoo River. **Please come dressed for field discussion. The group will carpool to nearby Saugatuck.** *This field trip is generously hosted by Land Conservancy of West Michigan and sponsored by Quantumgroup Consulting; David Borneman, LLC; and Michigan Nature Association. (All levels)*

2:00PM–5:00PM **Land and Stewardship Practitioners Working Session:
Finding Solutions to Common Challenges** *Etheridge/Fifth Third Room*
*DISCUSSION LEADERS: MaryKay O’Donnell, Land Trust Alliance; David Clutter, Driftless Area Land Conservancy;
Tom Duffus, The Conservation Fund; Paul Ecklund, Disability Network Southwest Michigan; Nate Fuller, Southwest
Michigan Land Conservancy; Abby Gartland, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy; Ken Peregon, O’Boyle, Cowell,
Blalock & Associates*

Join your colleagues in a roundtable discussion on a variety of land and stewardship cutting-edge issues. Talk about big picture initiatives, learn new tools to enhance your work and maybe even cross a few things off of your to-do list. We’ll start this discussion with three topics: developing or adjusting land protection criteria for new initiatives (such as community conservation, access to nature, cooperative projects and ambassador landscapes); drafting forestry language for conservation easements; and how to plan for access for all to nature preserves – not only access that is technically acceptable, but enjoyable for everyone. This informal format will allow for plenty of time for questions, answers and discussion. Getting to Holland after the session starts? Please join us at any time! (Intermediate/Advanced)

5:30PM–7:00PM **Social Gathering at Curragh Irish Pub**
Join your colleagues for networking and conversation in the Trophy Room of the Curragh Irish Pub. Hors d’oeuvres and one complimentary drink ticket will be provided. This is the place to make plans with new friends and old for dinner tonight in Holland. Curragh Irish Pub is located at 73 East 8th Street, one block from the Haworth.
Generously sponsored by Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.

Wednesday, April 9th

7:00AM–8:00AM **Fun Run Around Windmill Island** *Lobby*
Join Gazelle Sports and your friends at the MW Conference for this 3-4 mile morning run!

7:00AM–9:00AM **Continental Breakfast**

7:00AM–4:00PM **Registration & Exhibits** *Lobby*

9:00AM–10:00AM **Welcoming Address and Alliance 2014 Update** *Etheridge/Fifth Third Room*
Carolyn Waldron, Midwest Director, Land Trust Alliance
Mary Pope Hutson, Executive Vice President, Land Trust Alliance

10:00AM–Noon **Plenary: What Does Community Mean to You?
An Interactive Experience Exploring Community Conservation in Action** *Etheridge/Fifth Third Room*

FACILITATOR: Dianne Russell, Institute for Conservation Leadership

This interactive peer-learning experience will inspire and motivate you through innovative examples of community conservation in the Midwest. Through a variety of methods, we will explore a range of examples of community engagement — from your peers, and from you, the experts. This session will feature short presentations, small group discussions and provocative questions to help us explore the successes and challenges of being more inclusive with broader segments of our communities. You will identify approaches that will allow your land trust to successfully experiment with community conservation to make your work increasingly relevant to your community, strengthen your land conservation efforts and build organizational resiliency and capacity.

Three presentations will spark this conversation:

Connecting Land Conservation and Local Food Initiatives - Lenore Beyer-Clow, Openlands

As land trusts, we have an opportunity to leverage growing interest in local fresh food into a new constituency of people who care about land and water health and conservation. Openlands supports the Chicago region’s local food system by promoting sound land use policies, preserving farmland and natural assets and connecting people to the land through growing food. Lenore will describe Openlands’ involvement in the local food movement, the importance of developing diverse cross-sector partnerships and how food can be a gateway for community members to understand the importance of land conservation.

Aligning Conservation with Community Needs and Context - Megan Olds, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy

When is the last time you asked members of your community what *they* valued? Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy recently embarked on a community outreach and engagement effort to strategically guide conservation goals and targets. Aligning community needs and conservation priorities was a key outcome of this process and was accomplished through involving the community, developing policies and creating community conservation criteria. Megan will discuss lessons learned, partnerships, funding the project and technical support needs.

The Center for Conservation Leadership Program - John Sentell, Lake Forest Open Lands Association

To preserve our land forever, we must cultivate the next generation of conservation leaders from a wider socio-economic and ethnic range and nurture in them a land stewardship ethic. Lake Forest Open Lands Association's Center for Conservation Leadership engages and educates young people from diverse neighboring communities. The program provides these students with environmental literacy, leadership experience and an understanding of conservation stewardship. John will discuss LFOLA's commitment to developing a broader conservation community to meet the challenges of changing demographics and social values, and reaping the rewards of a new generation of conservation enthusiasts.

Noon–1:30PM

Lunch

Etheridge/Fifth Third Room

1:30PM–4:00PM Afternoon Workshops

A01: Practical Tools for Engaging the Public

Bil Mar Room

LEADER: Dori Pynnonen, Michigan State University

Michigan State University has researched meaningful ways to engage the public in natural resource issues. In this session you will learn how to identify audiences you haven't engaged with in the past and will walk away with practical tools to begin your engagement with these new communities, all while keeping current stakeholders engaged. You will learn about the spectrum of public participation from informing and consulting to involving, collaborating and empowering. Attendees will discuss a *Recipe for Reaching Out* to understand the ingredients and special tools needed to meaningfully and inclusively engage the public. These tips and tools are based on real-world experiences of what works and what doesn't. (All levels)

A02: The Land-Water Connection: Partnerships to Advance Land and Water Conservation

Trans-Matic/Gentex Room

LEADERS: Jill Ryan, Freshwater Future; Gayle Killam and Francisco Ollervides, River Network

Join Freshwater Future and River Network for an interactive session to explore how to increase your conservation impact through partnerships with water protection organizations. The protection of water and the protection of land are interconnected, and too often we disconnect the two. So come learn from your peers about the successes and challenges of connecting land and water groups in partnership and discover how working together can provide new answers to new and old problems. We'll talk about the hurdles to collaboration and how they were overcome (or not); we'll learn about when collaborating makes sense; and we will explore how groups have collaborated on both short- and long-term projects. Come ready to participate in a lively conversation about how you can further your organization's goals to better protect land and freshwater resources through partnerships between land and water groups. (All levels)

A03: An Economic Approach to Valuing and Communicating the Products of Natural Resource Conservation

Donnelley Dining Room

LEADERS: Nigel Griswold, Griswold Consulting Group, LLC; Jessica Sargent, Trust for Public Land

Why is it critical to communicate the economic value of natural resource conservation, especially when making environmental policy decisions? How is it possible to put a dollar value on the seemingly intangible and invaluable benefits of conservation, such as ecosystem services provided by watershed protection? Do people value conservation lands that are publicly accessible for recreation equally to those lands that are strictly protected for biodiversity and species habitat? In this interactive session, we will explore these questions by discussing the demand for value-based performance measures in the policy environment, by learning how natural resource economists frame questions about the public's value for conservation and by engaging in a hands-on economic experiment. This workshop will help you think about how to value ecosystem goods and how to talk to the public and policymakers about the value of privately conserved lands.

Jessica will highlight two economic benefits analyses recently completed by the Trust for Public Land (TPL), highlighting the economic benefits of the Clean Ohio Fund and Cleveland Metroparks to local communities. This research provides

state and local governments with the information necessary to determine the true effect of land conservation on the county's economy and finances. TPL's impact analyses are powerful tools for advocating public investment in conservation. *The Economic Benefits of Clean Ohio Fund Conservation Report*, prepared by TPL, was leveraged by the Coalition of Ohio Land Trusts to secure an additional \$52 million in funding for the Clean Ohio Fund last year. The Clean Ohio Fund is a program that has conserved more than 92,000 acres of open space and farmland since 2000. It is the state's primary funding source for open space conservation, farmland preservation, brownfield revitalization and trail creation. (All levels)

4:30PM–6:30PM Welcoming Reception at Boatwerks Waterfront Restaurant

Join your colleagues for a delightful evening of socializing, networking and refreshments in the Macatawa Room of Boatwerks Waterfront Restaurant, located on the shores of Lake Macatawa. Boatwerks is located at 216 Van Raalte Ave, a 15-minute walk west on 9th street then a slight left until you hit the restaurant. Maps are available at the registration desk. *Generously sponsored by The Conservation Fund.*

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

8:00PM–9:00PM After Dinner Discussion: Barry Lopez Video

Donnelley Dining Room

Not ready to call it a day? Join your friends for a short video featuring Barry Lopez. Saying, "I don't do this very often. I'm up here now because I have enormous respect for what you do, and the honor of being here is all mine," award-winning essayist and nature writer Barry Lopez reached many hearts when he spoke of his admiration for the work of land trusts during his speech at Rally 2013 in New Orleans. After viewing an encore presentation of this speech, participants are welcome to stay afterwards for an informal discussion inspired by Barry's thought-provoking words.

Thursday, April 10th

7:00AM–9:00AM

Continental Breakfast

7:00AM–2:30PM

Registration & Exhibits

Lobby

7:30AM–8:30AM

Policy Breakfast and Discussion

Etheridge/Fifth Third Room

9:00AM–11:30AM Morning Workshops

B01: How to Make Your Community and Your Work Climate Savvy

Bil Mar Room

LEADER: Ann Baughman, Freshwater Future

Some of the trends anticipated from climate change in the Great Lakes include much higher temperatures—increasing energy in the summer months; increasing rainfall that will increase polluted runoff to our waters; and more evaporation of water—lowering the level of the Great Lakes. How will climate change impact your land and watershed protection work? Is your work climate savvy? In this session we will examine these trends, their anticipated impacts on our region and your conservation work, and how to engage others to discuss and work on the topic. Join your colleagues from around the Midwest in several interactive activities to learn how to make your work more climate savvy and reduce impacts and hazards of climate change. (All levels)

B02: Working Together: Collaboration for Community Conservation

Donnelley Dining Room

LEADER: Dianne Russell, Institute for Conservation Leadership

Being relevant in your community, and "connecting the dots for conservation," often leads to the need for collaboration with other organizations and entities. When done *right*, collaborations can help to: better define goals for our communities based on common ground, focus and increase resources, lead to new solutions and provide benefits that are greater than the sum of the parts. Collaborations can also be more work, involve risks as well as benefits and need to be properly designed to effectively accomplish goals. This interactive workshop will provide tools and guidelines to help you understand the types and range of potential collaborations, how to foster leadership, when and how to begin a new collaboration, problem solving for current collaborative work to take it to the next level, and when to end a collaborative effort that is not effective. (All levels)

B03: What's the Story? Connecting Organizations to Community Through Storytelling

Trans-Matic/Gentex

LEADERS: Dan Collison and Elizabeth Meister, Long Haul Productions

Everyone (and every organization) has a great story – but it's not easy to tell that story well. This workshop will help you better appreciate and identify your organization's most compelling narratives and learn what it takes to craft these vignettes into stories that move donors, volunteers and your community at large. Practically speaking, you'll see and hear some terrific storytelling examples that demonstrate how finding a good "character" makes all the difference in crafting better print, audio and visual works. You'll then learn how to identify and interview the very best candidates. You'll see how one great, well-told story can multitask and be adapted over various traditional and social media, allowing you more bang for the buck. And while we won't get hands-on with recording equipment and cameras, you'll better understand the tools of the trade, the training you need to use those tools, what they cost, and why it's often safer (and a better investment) to hire professional production help. Expect some audience participation, and come equipped with questions and samples of your own organization's marketing materials that you might want input on. (All levels)

11:30PM–1:00PM Lunch and Limericks

Etheridge/Fifth Third Room

Lunch Presentation by Katie Kahl, The Nature Conservancy

The Western Lake Erie Coastal Conservation Vision engages a diverse set of U.S. and Canadian conservation, industry and community interests to arrive at a suite of mapped conservation investment opportunities where we have optimized benefits for people and nature. These maps will direct stakeholder-supported coastal conservation action, development, planning and zoning.

Limericks

The tradition continues! Show your creative side and masterful rhyming skills by crafting a limerick worthy of this year's contest. Limericks should include a conservation or nature theme. You may submit as many as you wish, but remember – don't write anything that you don't want all of your colleagues reading. Submit your entries at the registration desk by 9:00am on Thursday and the winner will be announced at lunch on Thursday.

1:00PM–2:30PM Afternoon Featured Sessions

FS01: Land Protection and Stewardship Practitioners Roundtable

Bil Mar Room

DISCUSSION LEADER: April Scholtz, Land Conservancy of West Michigan

Are you involved in stewardship or land protection? Need more space to network and engage with your colleagues? Whether you're staff or a seasoned volunteer, come join us to celebrate success stories, provide support for troublesome experiences and discuss what's on your mind. (All levels)

FS02: Leading From Within: How Will We Shape the Future of Land Conservation? *Donnelley Dining Room*

DISCUSSION LEADER: Dianne Russell, Institute for Conservation Leadership

This roundtable is designed for executive directors, board members and other leaders to talk about pressing issues we are all thinking about. In a world of change, how will we lead our movement forward? What vexing issues keep you up at night? Join your colleagues for a candid discussion about the challenges and opportunities that we must invest in to ensure the growth and vitality of the land trust movement. (All levels)

FS03: Development and Communications Roundtable

Trans-Matic/Gentex Room

DISCUSSION LEADER: Anita O'Gara, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

This is "our time" as development or communications staff members and volunteers. We'll talk over our nagging questions, biggest challenges and methods that have worked for us. We're often out front in connecting communities to our issues and projects, so let's learn from one another. (All levels)

FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

The Land Trust Alliance gratefully thanks the 2014 Midwest Conference faculty who spent hours developing the content of their sessions, compiling their materials and traveling to Holland, Michigan, to share their knowledge and expertise. The Alliance could not offer such a variety of quality workshops without their dedication to the conservation community. Please take time to thank them for their contribution.

Ann Baughman is associate director for Freshwater Future, where she is the lead for their climate program and fundraising. Ann has helped to engage citizen and community groups to build resilience to climate change by implementing adaptation projects in several Great Lakes cities. In addition, Ann has coordinated funding diversification for Freshwater Future, building a membership program of over 500 members, increasing major gifts and increasing new foundation sources. Previously, Ann served as the watershed protection director for the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and park ranger for the National Park Service. Ann has a bachelor's degree in natural resources from the University of Michigan. (B01)

Lenore Beyer-Clow is the policy director at Openlands, where she plans, implements and coordinates the organization's policy, legislative and advocacy agenda. Lenore was previously the executive director of the McHenry County Defenders, a citizen advocacy environmental organization. She earned a master's in business administration from the University of Illinois and a bachelor's degree from Oberlin College. (Plenary)

David Clutter is executive director of Driftless Area Land Conservancy. For over 20 years David has dedicated his career to protecting land and water resources. He has worked for local, county, state and national organizations and/or agencies, primarily in the Midwest. David has a master's degree in environment and resources from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with an emphasis on collaborative conservation planning and policy implementation. (Practitioners Working Session)

Dan Collison is founder and executive director/producer of Long Haul Productions, a small nonprofit devoted to telling American stories for public media and in collaboration with other not-for-profits. A regular contributor to NPR's All Things Considered, Collison has worked in public radio since 1980. He's produced more than 130 documentaries and oral histories for radio, and has been honored with some of radio's most prestigious awards, including the duPont-Columbia Silver Baton and the Third Coast International Audio Festival Gold Award. Collison also collaborates with the StoryCorps project as a senior editor and has consulted with and produced materials for foundations and environmental organizations including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The Nature Conservancy and NatureServe.

He teaches radio workshops for professionals and college students, and has contributed to several books and museum exhibitions. When not working on stories, you'll find him tending a two-acre native planting and filling birdfeeders at the home he shares with partner Elizabeth in Three Oaks, Michigan. (B03)

Tom Duffus is vice president for The Conservation Fund, where he provides leadership for land conservation partnerships in the Midwest including the Great Lakes, Great Plains and Upper Mississippi River/Missouri River watershed. Tom has worked in land conservation since 1985 in the Midwest, Wyoming, Ontario and the Adirondacks, conserving over 465,000 acres of land and raising significant sums of private and public funds for land conservation, capital campaigns and operations. Tom is a commissioner on the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, serves as chair of The Conservation Fund's Land Conservation Loan Committee, and provides leadership in other areas and geographies for the Fund. He has extensive experience conserving forestland as well as farm, open space, biodiversity and wilderness lands and is an experienced conservation easement practitioner. Previously, Tom worked for The Nature Conservancy and the Adirondack Land Trust. He holds a master's degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. He is an accomplished bagpiper and sailor and holds a US Coast Guard Captain's License. (Practitioners Working Session)

Paul Ecklund is disability rights advocate with Disability Network Southwest Michigan and is also a National Certified ADA Coordinator. He serves on numerous local committees assisting with compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), including Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority, Kalamazoo Continuum of Care, Coalition for Excellence in Mental Health, and the Access Team. Paul has served since 2003 as a member of ADA Michigan, a statewide committee comprised of volunteers from businesses, disability groups and government agencies working together to increase the awareness and implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act throughout the State of Michigan. He also chairs the Michigan Disability Housing Workgroup, a coalition of agencies concerned about safe, affordable and accessible housing in Michigan. (Practitioners Working Session)

Nate Fuller is the conservation and stewardship director for Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy (SWMLC).

He received a bachelor's degree in biology from Northland College and is working towards a geography master's in environmental and resource analysis. He has over 15 years' experience working for conservation organizations providing environmental stewardship and education. Nate worked as a naturalist, volunteer coordinator, and environmental educator for nature centers in the Great Lakes region, North Branch Restoration Project in the Chicago area, and The Nature Conservancy before joining SWMLC in 2001. He began as a stewardship specialist coordinating preserve management projects and in 2007 he became SWMLC's conservation and stewardship director. Nate enjoys helping provide stewardship workshops with partners throughout the country on behalf of SWMLC, Natural Areas Association and many other conservation partners. (Practitioners Working Session)

Abby Gartland is director of preserve stewardship for Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. Abby joined the conservancy in 2001 following the completion of her bachelor's degree in fisheries and wildlife from Michigan State University. She spends much of her time tromping in the woods learning about and enjoying the unique flora and fauna of northwest lower Michigan. Although Abby envisions Michigan as her home base she hopes to travel extensively, double her life list (at least!) and experience as much of the natural world as she can. With the support of the stewardship team, Abby is responsible for much of the biological work at GTRLC's nature preserves including completing baseline inventories of the flora and fauna on site. She also manages the invasive species program. (Practitioners Working Session)

Nigel Griswold is principal at Griswold Consulting Group. Griswold Consulting focuses on big data construction, economic modeling and predictive analytics to provide insight into the effectiveness of alternative policy decisions. He has written for the Land Policy Institute on the economic impact of Michigan's state parks and other natural resources, and most recently completed a report titled "Estimating the Effect of Demolishing Distressed Structures in Cleveland, OH, 2009-2013: Impacts on Real Estate Equity and Mortgage-Foreclosure." (A03)

Mary Pope Hutson is executive vice president of the Land Trust Alliance. Previously, she served as executive director of the Lowcountry Open Land Trust based in Charleston, South Carolina for five years and worked as a director of education and tours for one of the first historic preservation organizations in America, Historic Charleston Foundation. She was the first woman appointed to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Board and helped start the coordinating body of land trusts now known as the South Carolina Land Trust Network. Mary Pope earned a bachelor's degree in

international affairs from Sweet Briar College and prior to her work in land conservation served for 10 years in public service on Capitol Hill, working for Senator Jesse Helms as a staff assistant with the Department of the Interior and as political special assistant to Ambassador Smith Hempstone in the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya. She also currently serves on the North American Wetlands Conservation Council on behalf of all land trusts. (Welcoming Address)

Katie Kahl is conservation policy and practices specialist for The Nature Conservancy in Michigan and leads the regional Western Lake Erie Coastal Conservation Vision project in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Ontario, Canada. She works to build partnerships and design strategies that implement long term conservation and policy objectives and on-the-ground conservation action. Previously, Katie was the director of conservation and policy research at Heart of the Lakes Center for Land Conservation Policy. She has also managed a seven-county green infrastructure project for West Michigan Strategic Alliance, connecting local units of government, business and conservation interests who share common, regional land use priorities. Katie has a doctorate and master's degrees from Michigan State University's Department of Fisheries & Wildlife, with an emphasis in landscape ecology. (Lunch Address)

Gayle Killam is the deputy director of River Network's Habitat Program. She co-authored "The Clean Water Act, An Owner's Manual," "Tracking TMDLs, a Field Guide for Evaluating Proposed Watershed Restoration Plans," and "Permitting an End to Pollution, How to Scrutinize and Strengthen Water Pollution Permits in your State." Gayle trains citizens on the Clean Water Act since joining River Network, and a significant focus has been the development and implementation of state and federal stormwater programs. Over the last few years she has been managing watershed-based restoration and green infrastructure projects that involve local relationship-building and management of technical contractors in different states. The goals for these projects are to restore historic hydrology, improve riparian habitat and to revitalize and reconnect urban communities to the waterways that flow through them when making policy and planning decisions about stormwater management. She received her master's degree from Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences and her bachelor's degree in economics from Yale University. (A02)

Vaughn Maatman is the executive director of the Land Conservancy of West Michigan. After degrees at Hope College and Princeton, he served more than 25 years at Princeton University, The University of Chicago and Kalamazoo College as a teacher of public and applied ethics, including environmental ethics, and as a dean. He also served as the executive director of a nonprofit in

Northern Michigan that owns 2,800 acres of conservation land. While there, the organization established a 750-acre conservation easement under the USFS Forest Legacy Program with the assistance of the Little Traverse Conservancy and Michigan Department of Natural Resources. (Field Trip)

Elizabeth Meister is senior producer and primary editor for Long Haul Productions, a regular contributor to NPR's All Things Considered, and a storytelling consultant for nonprofits. She's won some of radio's highest honors for her documentary work with partner Dan Collison; they were honored together as United States Artists media fellows for their body of collaborative documentary storytelling. Her other work is varied; she collaborated with musician Sufjan Stevens on several projects, including The BQE, commissioned by the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and she's also worked on storytelling, research, and web projects for StoryCorps, This American Life, and the Third Coast International Audio Festival. She teaches radio and storytelling workshops, and serves as Head Vegetable Gardener and Bread Baker at the home she shares with Dan in Three Oaks, Michigan. (B03)

MaryKay O'Donnell is the Midwest conservation manager for the Land Trust Alliance and is responsible for assisting Midwest land trusts with assessments, organizational improvements, training and mentoring. MaryKay manages two excellence programs in Michigan (ACE) and Wisconsin (LEAP). She came to the Alliance in 2007 with 18 years of experience in conservation land acquisition. MaryKay co-authored a Standards and Practices Curriculum Guide titled *Acquiring Land and Conservation Easements*. She enjoys living in northern Michigan with her husband and two boys, recently took up kayaking, and is on a quest to learn how to bake great bread. (Practitioners Working Session)

Anita O'Gara is vice president and development director for the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF). She has directed INHF's communications and/or development efforts for 25 years. She enjoys using great land projects and creative collaborations to increase their donor base, find new volunteers, and increase support for Iowa conservation. (FS03)

Megan Olds is associate director of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. Megan joined the Conservancy in 2007 after working for seven years in the regional planning department of the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments. Megan is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Conservancy, including strategic direction and the oversight of programs and services. She also directs the fundraising efforts of the Conservancy. Megan serves on the board of the Michigan Association of Planning and was appointed by the governor to serve on Michigan's

Complete Streets Advisory Council. She has undergraduate degrees from Miami University (Ohio) in both geography and interdisciplinary studies, with a focus on local food systems. She also has a master's degree in organizational management. (Plenary)

Francisco Ollervides is better known as "Paco", a common nickname for Francisco in Mexico, where he was born and raised. Paco is a biochemical engineer with master's and doctorate degrees from Texas A&M University. He focused his bioacoustic field research to suggest ways to reduce the impacts of human made noises on marine mammals. He was director to the Center for Coastal Studies for the School for Field Studies system in San Carlos, Mexico. He then turned to grassroots activism by co-founding and serving as the first board president to Magdalena Baykeeper. He was senior field coordinator for Waterkeeper Alliance where he supported and enhanced the activities of nonprofit watershed organizations in the U.S and Latin America. For several years he did consulting work in the areas of nonprofit organizational development in Ohio and Michigan. He now works to strengthen the capacity building services of River Network in the Great Lakes and Upper Midwest. He lives with his wife, Emily, and their children Sofia and Nicolas in a farm house in north central Ohio. (A02)

Ken Peregón is president and a principal of O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates, Inc. landscape architects based in Kalamazoo. He has a bachelor's degree in natural resources and a master's degree in landscape architecture both from the University of Michigan and is a licensed Landscape Architect in the State of Michigan. Ken has been with the firm since 1987 and specializes in institutional and commercial land planning and design, as well as environmental analysis. His experience encompasses dozens of land planning and site design projects. He has led many projects from conceptual design through implementation. (Practitioners Working Session)

Dori Pynnonen is a doctoral candidate at Michigan State University (MSU), where she examines the many ways in which trees and forests are important to people, and the methodological and normative issues of studying minorities and women. She is also the Academic Specialist and Internship Coordinator at the Center for Gender in Global Context at MSU. Dori completed her master's degree in the Department of Forestry at MSU with a specialization in Gender, Justice and Environmental Change. Dori's scholarly interests include community-based natural resource management, political ecology, collaborative processes and public participation in natural resource management and decision-making, gender, and social and environmental justice. She is also an advocate to end the cycle of violence against women. (A01)

Dianne Russell is executive director of the Institute for Conservation Leadership (ICL), where she leads the fundraising, financial management, and program design and delivery for ICL. She has worked with local, state and regional leaders in the environmental and conservation community since 1985, including over 1,800 groups across North America. Her areas of specialty include leadership, organizational change, strategic planning, collaborative strategies, and fundraising. Dianne's previous staff positions have been with Union of Concerned Scientists, Americans for the Environment, and the Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy. A native of the Great Lakes region, Dianne earned a double degree in religion and sociology from Wittenberg University in Ohio. (Plenary, B02, FS02)

Jill Ryan is the executive director of Freshwater Future, where she has been for over 14 years. She has a background in nonprofit management and capacity building, environmental toxicology, and human services, and has taught environmental law and legal research. Previously, Jill worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Chautauqua Area Girl Scout Council. She received her bachelor's degree in biology from Grand Valley State University in Michigan, her master's degree in zoology from the University of Maine, and her law degree from Case Western Reserve University in Ohio. Jill and her family live in Petoskey, Michigan where they enjoy kayaking, fishing, biking, hiking, swimming, skiing and camping. She grew up in Muskegon and spent many days fishing on Muskegon Lake and Lake Michigan. (A02)

Jessica Sargent is director of Conservation Economics for The Trust for Public Land, a national land conservation organization that conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. The Trust for Public Land's Conservation Economics program conducts research on the economic benefits and fiscal impacts of land conservation at the local, regional and state levels. (A03)

April Scholtz is land protection director for the Land Conservancy of West Michigan. April has worked in the land conservation field for 28 years with the Michigan Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, the North Country Trail Association, and since 1993 with the Land Conservancy of West Michigan. After serving eight years as the Land Conservancy's executive director, she chose to focus on what she loves best: working with landowners and local governments to help them identify, negotiate, and preserve land through conservation easements, nature preserves, and parks. April served on the Citizens Advisory Committee for Michigan State Parks, participated in Michigan's

inaugural Environmental Leadership Institute, and holds a master's degree from the University of Michigan with additional graduate studies in natural resource policy & management. (Field Trip, FS01)

John Sentell is president and CEO of Lake Forest Open Lands Association. From 2006 to 2010 he was on staff at The Wetlands Initiative, most recently serving as their executive director. John previously served as vice chairman of the MCDC Corporation, a public tax corporation serving the residents of Collin County, Texas. Prior to his work in the nonprofit sector, John had a career in Fortune 500 marketing and branding for Campbell-Ewald, Inc. and the Leo Burnett Company, as well as independent brand consulting. A passionate conservationist and fly-fisherman, he serves on the board of The Wetlands Initiative and Bluestem Communications, and is secretary of Camp Ginger Quill. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Miami University. (Plenary)

Carolyn Waldron is Midwest director of the Land Trust Alliance, leading programs that serve 165 community-based land trusts in a 13-state region. For most of the past 25 years, she has advocated the protection of large ecosystems including the Florida Everglades, the Okefenokee ecosystem, and Oregon's territorial sea. Recently, Carolyn led a new initiative in Oregon to establish marine protected areas to conserve and restore Oregon's coastal and ocean resources. Previously, as vice president with National Wildlife Federation, she led their national wetlands conservation policy program and southeast region. Carolyn began her work as a volunteer and has served as a board director of several nonprofit organizations. She also has extensive experience in the for-profit consulting sector. Carolyn is an adjunct professor with the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs, where she earned an MPA in environmental policy and policy analysis. She also holds a bachelor's degree in environmental studies and fine arts from Indiana University. (Welcoming Address)

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