



# Wisconsin Chapter 2007 Annual Conference

## Green Lake Conference Center – Green Lake, WI

January 31 & February 1, 2007



## The Foundations of Conservation in Wisconsin

What responsibilities do  
conservationists, land users, and agency  
staff have to our environment?

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY



## The Foundations of Conservation in Wisconsin

In a complex and ever-changing context involving technology, land use, markets and government programs, it is sometimes useful to get back to the basics. In that spirit, this meeting has been organized to open a discussion around a basic question; **what responsibilities do we as conservationists, land users, and agency staff have to our environment?**

We can all point out examples where landowners are farming government programs, and where conservation staffs have evolved into being program managers. Yet many believe that there is also "something more" out there at work. We can all point out examples where a local conservationist works around government programs to get conservation on the ground because it was needed and the right thing to do. We have all read about cases where an agency or non-governmental organization has engaged in a political debate on an environmental principle that goes far beyond the agendas of any political party. We can also find many examples of land users who do the right thing regarding conservation on the land, and government programs played no role in that decision. It is not easy to define that "something more," let alone organize a meeting around it. Yet many of us believe that this foundation has always made Wisconsin unique in resource management activities. Conservation happens in this state due to many trying to do the right thing because they believe it is right, not because of program guidelines, regulatory threats, or generous compensation packages offered to professional conservationists! Some have used the term stewardship to try and classify this "something more" we see all around us. Stewardship implies accepting and acting on a responsibility for something you don't own, in this case the environment. Our own Aldo Leopold talked about a land ethic. Yet is there more to it than believing in a moral principle of stewardship or a land ethic?

This situation generates a number of challenging questions that are rarely, if ever, discussed in an open and forthright fashion. There are no right or technically correct answers to the questions listed below. However, we believe our day-long discussion of these questions will highlight what has been, and hopefully will continue to be, the foundations of conservation in Wisconsin.

1. Does a professional conservationist also have to be a steward?
2. Is conservation always a cost? Can conservation be profitable without government payments?
3. Are there situations where conservation programs and regulations actually penalize the landowner who attempts to practice stewardship?
4. What stewardship responsibilities, if any, do those who are not conservationists or landowners have in their local communities?
5. Does stewardship have any role in the future of resource management in Wisconsin?
6. Overall, do government programs hinder or help in the practice of stewardship?

## Conference Agenda

### Wednesday, January 31, 2007

- 11:30 am Registration
- 12:00 Noon **Lunch**
- 1:00 pm Council Meeting
- 2:00 pm Local Conservation Program Presentation
- 3:00 pm Tour of Green Lake Conference Center Grounds
- 5:30 pm **Dinner & Chapter Awards**
- 7:00 pm Evening Speaker Program

### Thursday, February 1, 2007

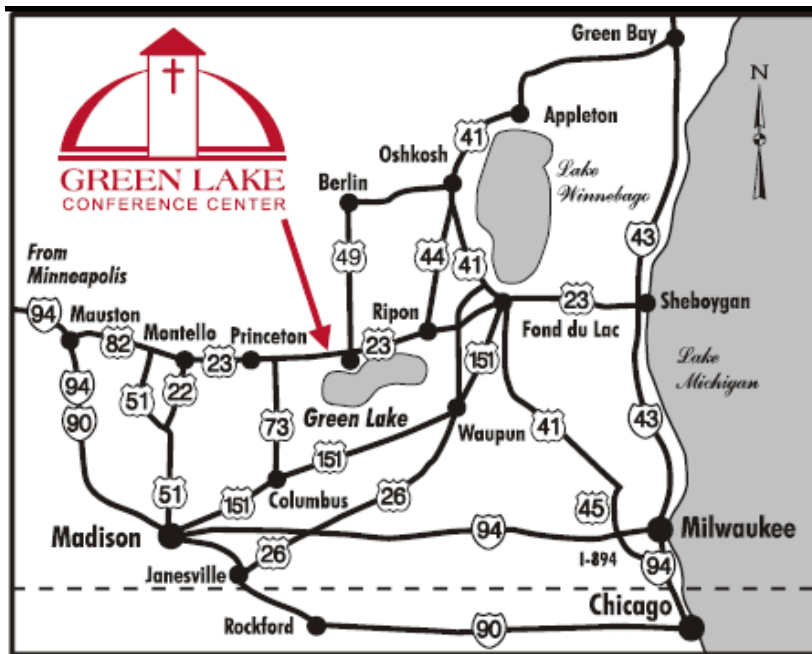
- 7:30 am Breakfast
- 8:00 am Registration
- 8:30 am President's Message – Steve Prissel
- 8:45 am Program Kickoff – Pete Nowak, UW Madison
- 9:15 am Paul Daigle, Conservation Specialist, Marathon County
- 9:45 am **Break**
- 10:15 am George Meyer, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
- 10:45 am Agency Speakers  
Rod Nilsestuen, Secretary, DATCP  
Pat Leavenworth, State Conservationist, USDA-NRCS  
Todd Ambs, Administrator Division of Water, WDNR
- 12:00 noon **Lunch & Scholarship Awards**
- 1:30 pm Farmer Panel  
Jamie Derr, Dane County Farmer / Founder Great Lakes BioFuels  
Jim Koepke, Koepke Farms, Oconomowoc  
Altfred Krusenbaum, KrusenGrass Farm, Elkhorn
- 3:00 pm **Break**
- 3:15 pm Program Wrap Up and SWCS Direction – Pete Nowak
- 3:45 pm Adjourn

## Lodging

Contact: Green Lake Conference Center  
W2511 State Road 23  
Green Lake, WI 54941

Guest Services 920-294-3323 or email: [GuestServices@glcc.org](mailto:GuestServices@glcc.org)  
[www.glcc.org](http://www.glcc.org)

Room Rate: \$62 single or double, add \$15 for each additional person



Look for the conference center signs and red brick gates on the south side of State Highway 23, 2 miles west of the City of Green Lake and 8 miles east of the City of Princeton.

## Membership

Become a member of SWCS Wisconsin Chapter by visiting the SWCS website at [www.swcs.org](http://www.swcs.org).

Membership benefits:

- Effective representation in policy circles on environmental, agricultural, and conservation issues.
- Opportunities to network with and learn from professionals from many disciplines through local, regional, and international meetings.
- Interaction and education through local chapter membership in U.S. and Canada.
- *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* subscription
- E-newsletter *Conservogram*
- Discounts on books and conference and workshop registration fees
- Lapel pin and memberships card
- Student memberships are open to full-time high-school students, university undergraduate or graduate students.

# REGISTRATION FORM

## The Foundations of Conservation in Wisconsin

Wisconsin SWCS Chapter 2007 Annual Conference  
January 31 – February 1, 2007  
Green Lake, WI

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

### Conference Fees

Full Conference - Jan. 31 & Feb. 1  
(Includes breakfast, lunch & breaks)

SWCS members \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Non-members \$55.00 \_\_\_\_\_

February 1 Only  
(Includes lunch & breaks)

SWCS members \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Students/Retirees \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Non-members \$40.00 \_\_\_\_\_

After Jan. 19, add late fee \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: Wisconsin Chapter SWCS

Mail registration and payment by Jan. 19, 2007 to: Jim Hebbe  
Green Lake County  
Land Conservation Department  
PO Box 3188  
Green Lake, WI 54941

Phone: 920-294-4051

FAX: 920-294-4056