



2010 ANNUAL WALCE PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE AGENDA

Wednesday, March 3rd

10:00 – 3:00 **Registration**

11:30 – 12:30 **Luncheon Buffet**

12:30 – 3:30 **Opening Session**

Welcome: WALCE President, Kurt Calkins
Curt Meine, Senior Fellow, Aldo Leopold Foundation and
Director for Conservation Biology and History, Center for
Humans and Nature

Awards Ceremony

County Presentations:

Door County: Plum Bottom Ground Water Dye Trace Project – Door
County Karst Environment

Vernon County: The Role of Land and Water Conservation in Flood
Response

3:30 – 4:00 **Break**

4:00 – 5:30 **Business Meeting, Candidate Speeches**

5:30 – 7:00 **Social Gathering**

Thursday, March 4th

6:30 – 8:00 **Breakfast**

7:30 – 1:30 **Registration**

8:00 – 9:30 **BREAKOUT SESSION I**

1. Geology of Wisconsin*

(CEU Eligible - 0.5 Nutrient Management and 1.0 Soil and Water Management)

Presented by Maureen Muldoon, Associate Professor of Geology

This session will be an overview of the geology in Wisconsin and how it impacts the design, location, and type of manure storage facilities at a site. The water quality impacts of improperly located manure storage facilities will be discussed. Soil types, bedrock types, sand/gravel lenses, and perched water will be part of the discussion.

2. Stream Restoration in Western Wisconsin*

(CEU Eligible - 1.5 Soil and Water Management)

Presented by David Vetrano, DNR Fisheries Supervisor; Bob Micheel, Monroe County Soil and Water Conservationist; and Jeff Hastings, Trout Unlimited Project Manager – Driftless Area Restoration Effort

Coldwater stream restoration has traditionally focused on trout habitat improvement. Recently, a unique fraternity of scientists from many disciplines came together to initiate a more holistic approach to riparian corridor management by improving habitat for multiple species associated with a cold water ecotype. Bob Micheel will also talk about how Monroe County has worked with the Amish Community to restore degraded streams.

3. WinTransect*

(CEU Eligible - 1.5 Soil and Water Management)

Presented by Paul Sebo, Washington County LWCD Senior Technician; Justin Shell, DATCP LWRM Program Coordinator; and Sara Walling, DATCP Water Quality and Nutrient Management Specialist

Local and statewide interpretation of WinTransect will be the focus of this session. A DATCP database for aggregating county data and displaying both local and statewide trends will be unveiled. There will also be time devoted to user questions and tips, as well as a discussion on misusing.

4. The Functionality of the Ozaukee County NR 151 Web Based Software *

(CEU Eligible - 0.5 Soil and Water Management and 1.0 Professional Development)

Presented by Christina Pearson, Ozaukee County GIS Coordinator; and Thomas Thym, Ruekert-Mielke

This session provides a demonstration of the web-based NR 151 tracking software Ozaukee County has developed with the assistance of DATCP and DNR.

5. Balancing Work and Life

Presented by Brittany McIlquham and Tabitha Hackett, UW-La Crosse Graduate Assistants, Community Health Education

This breakout session will cover how to balance work and life in this busy world we live in. We'll cover how employers and employees can more effectively establish boundaries between work and home.

6. Manure Spills Research: Learning from History – Preparing for the Future*

(CEU Eligible - 0.5 Nutrient Management and 1.0 Soil and Water Management)

Presented by Erik Ronk, UW Extension Research Intern; and Kevin Erb, UW Extension Conservation Professional Development and Training Coordinator

This presentation will include a summary of research data, assessing the number and type of manure spills and releases in Wisconsin over the last five years: Sources, causes, and impacts. The presentation will include a comprehensive list of incidents, data gaps, training versus non-training for operators, definition of “spill” versus “incident”, and spills from confined animal feeding operations versus smaller operations. Recommendations will address spill prevention and spill management.

9:30 – 10:00 **Break**

10:00 - 11:30 **BREAKOUT SESSION II**

1. The Role of Nonprofit Land Trusts and Permanent Conservation Easements in Protecting the Best Parts of Our Natural Landscape and Working Lands*

(CEU Eligible - 1.5 Professional Development)

Presented by Tim Jacobson, Mississippi Valley Conservancy Executive Director

This session features a summary/history of Mississippi Valley Conservancy's (MVC) award-winning conservation work, examples of MVC conservation projects, and building partnerships between land trusts and other conservation organizations.

2. Habitat Restoration and Management on a Large River System*

(CEU Eligible - 1.5 Soil and Water Management)

Presented by James Nissen, "Upper Miss Refuge" La Crosse District Manager; and several other speakers

This is a multiple-speaker presentation on habitat restoration activities on Navigation Pool 8 of the Upper Mississippi River, Vernon County, WI and Houston County, MN. Among the activities included are island construction/protection and water level management.

3. Waterstop Installation*

(CEU Eligible - 1.5 Professional Development)

Presented by Ed Odgers, DATCP Conservation Engineering Section Chief

This session provides an overview of imbedded waterstop design and installation principles as applied to concrete waste containment systems. Topics will include: joint/waterstop location, framework, welding, concrete placement, and repair. The session is recommended for engineers and technicians working with manure, feed, and pesticide storage and containment systems.

4. Working Lands Initiative*

(CEU Eligible - 0.5 Soil and Water Management and 1.0 Professional Development)

Presented by Lisa Schultz, DATCP Planning and Information Specialist; and Sara Walling, DATCP Water Quality and Nutrient Management Specialist

The Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection will provide an update of the Working Lands Initiative that was passed in the July 2009 Biennial Budget Bill. Topics include farmland preservation program and zoning ordinance updates, agricultural enterprise areas, farmland preservation tax credits, conservation compliance, the purchase of agricultural conservation easements, and how these components affect land conservation employees.

5. Creating Web Pages: Software and Content Considerations

Presented by Loren Bechtum, La Crosse Web Design and Western Technical College

Presentations during this session will center around what should be considered when creating a web page, what processes are the most easily accomplished, and what software is recommended. Demonstrations will include files created by Word, and Expression Web will be compared along with Adobe Photoshop image compression and enhancement.

6. Conservation Warden Ag Waste Enforcement and How Changes in the Outdoors are Affecting Our Careers*

(CEU Eligible - .5 Soil and Water Management and 1.0 Professional Development)

Presented by Steven Dewald, DNR Warden Supervisor

A conservation warden will discuss current efforts by DNR wardens to investigate ag related complaints, as well as new issues on the horizon in conservation law enforcement.

11:30 - 12:30

Luncheon

1. Bear Management in Wisconsin*

(CEU Eligible - 1.5 Professional Development)

Presented by Keith Warnke, DNR Big Game Ecologist

Wisconsin's bear population has been increasing in numbers and occupied range in recent years, resulting in increasing citizen awareness and curiosity. Proper bear management includes regulated hunting and an informed public that has the knowledge it needs to live with bears.

2. Asian Carp and Their Potential Impacts to the Upper Mississippi Watershed*

(CEU Eligible - 1.5 Professional Development)

Presented by Heidi Keuler, US Fish and Wildlife Fishery Biologist

Asian Carp (silver and bighead) have been caught in the La Crosse area by commercial fishermen this past year. Potential negative impacts to the Upper Mississippi include an effect on the economy, recreation, and ecology of the watershed. There will be possible methods for control and ways that you can help combat these invasive species.

3. Construction Standard and Specification Update

Presented by John Ramsden, NRCS State Conservation Engineer; and Ed Odgers, DATCP Chief Conservation Engineering Section

This session will review any recent changes and current revision team progress with some of the most widely used standards and specifications. Specifically, 313, 634, and Spec. 4 will be discussed. This will be an open session so that ideas, comments, and questions can be heard to help all of us with our application of conservation. Once the changes and current progress has been reviewed, this will be a good time to bring up questions or comments on any of the other standards or specifications.

4. Administrative Roundtable

Led by Greg Baneck, Outagamie County Conservationist

This open forum will discuss current issues as they affect the daily operations and programs of Conservation Departments. We'll cover the current status of the Long-Range Funding Ad Hoc committee, WLI issues, NR151/153, LWCB, LWRMPs, you name it... it's fair game.

5. Support Staff Roundtable

Led by Kelly Maginnis, Columbia County Department of Land Conservation Administrative Assistant

Sharing of ideas, questions, and experiences among support staff.

6. Erosion Control Certification (12:30-4:30)

(CEU Eligible – 4.0 Professional Development)

Presented by Mary Jo Webster, La Crosse County Department of Land Conservation Conservation Specialist

This course will provide basic knowledge of erosion and sediment controls, erosion controls for one and two family dwellings, and training for WI Department of Commerce Soil and Erosion Inspector certification. There will also be a qualifier exam for Soil Erosion Inspector application given.

Please note: There will be a fee for this session.

7. U.S. Geological Survey, Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center (UMESC) Tour (12:30 – 4:30)

Led by Randy Hines, Outreach and Partnership Coordinator

As one of 18 biological science centers nationwide, UMESC conducts research to provide information to decision makers, resource managers, and the public to better manage the

Great Lakes, Upper Mississippi River, and the Midwest. The tour of UMESC will include the aquatic native and invasive species research facilities and interactive GIS lab. An introduction and overview of how to access our data via the internet to better manage the resources within your county will be provided.

2:00 – 2:30 **Break**

2:30 – 4:00 **BREAKOUT SESSION IV**

1. Woody Biomass from the Woods to the Boiler

Presented by Susan Butler, Wisconsin State Farm Service Agency Office Conservation Specialist; Tom Wellnitz, Controller/Marketing Director of Lambert Forest Products, LLC; and Ron Silverthorn, Fuel Procurement Manager DTE Energy Services/DTE Stoneman LLC

This session will feature a discussion on the current implementation of the Federal Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) and the procurement and use of woody biomass at an electrical power plant. It will also discuss the challenges and practical considerations of harvesting biomass, as well as educating landowners and government entities on the benefits of harvesting biomass from their property.

2. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) – Response and Treatment

Presented by John Skogerboe, US Army Engineer Research and Development Center Research Physical Scientist; and Tim Asplund, Wisconsin DNR Water Resources Management Specialist

This session will discuss the advantage and effectiveness of proper timing and application of chemicals to control AIS. What a “Rapid Response Plan” should include and some case studies will also be addressed.

3. Construction Standard and Specification Update (continued)

Presented by John Ramsden, NRCS State Conservation Engineer; and Ed Odgers, DATCP Chief Conservation Engineering Section

This session will review any recent changes and current revision team progress with some of the most widely used standards and specifications. Specifically, 313, 634, and Spec. 4 will be discussed. This will be an open session so that ideas, comments, and questions can be heard to help all of us with our application of conservation. Once the changes and current progress has been reviewed, this will be a good time to bring up questions or comments on any of the other standards or specifications.

4. Administrative Roundtable (continued)

Led by Greg Baneck, Outagamie County Conservationist

This open forum will discuss current issues as they affect the daily operations and programs of Conservation Departments. We'll cover the current status of the Long-Range Funding Ad Hoc committee, WLI issues, NR151/153, LWCB, LWRMPs, you name it... it's fair game.

5. Designing and Installing Attractive and Low Maintenance Raingardens

Presented by Virginia Gaynor, City of Maplewood Natural Resources Coordinator; and Rusty Schmidt, Washington SWCD (MN) Natural Resources Specialist

Learn how to make a raingarden an attractive asset to your property, and not just a “stormwater component”. Virginia Gaynor will discuss the City's experience installing raingardens and maintenance considerations. Rusty Schmidt will discuss aesthetic designs for raingardens and Washington SWCD's approach to installing over 100 raingardens last year.

Friday, March 5th

6:30 – 8:00 **Breakfast**

8:00 – 9:30 **BREAKOUT SESSION V**

1. BioRefinery Development

Presented by Jim Schreck, BEST Energies, Inc. Chief Technology Officer

This session will describe the evolution of technology in the biorefinery setting.

2. Wildlife Habitat Education Programs

Presented by Greg Cleereman, Marinette County Land and Water Conservation Department County Conservationist

This session will focus on the importance of habitat to wildlife and four educational programs that Marinette County uses to promote habitat protection, including “Birds-on-a-Stick”, “Skins and Skulls”, “Aquatic Creepy Critters”, and “Fisherman’s Frontage”.

3. Organic Sustainability – Hope for the Future

Presented by a speaker from Organic Valley Family of Farms/CROPP Cooperative

This session will provide a description of organics and their relation to sustainability. Subjects will include cover crop yields, certification process, disease control (plant and animal), marketing trends, genetic contamination of crops, pesticides, and more.

4. LiDAR User Group Meeting

This will be an informal roundtable discussion about the use of LiDAR data by various County, State and Federal staff across Wisconsin. The discussion will be led by members of a new LiDAR user group that was formed in 2009. Anyone who is interested in acquiring LiDAR data in the future is welcome to attend.

9:30 – 10:00 **Break**

10:00 – 11:30

Closing Presentation – Framing the Conservation Message

Presented by Rob McLennan, Department of Natural Resources Lake Winnebago Area Watershed Supervisor

Effective communication is the cornerstone of conservation activities. This presentation will explore the concept of using language based on community and individual values to frame issues and concepts related to conservation in a manner that engages the public in vital discussions and fosters involvement in conservation issues.

Election Announcements, Raffle Drawings and Door Prizes

*Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

CEUs will be applied for through the American Society of Agronomy for the following sessions. NRCS CEUs for Certified Conservation Planners will also be recognized for these sessions.