



We champion stewardship of  
the land and waters.

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### **VSN's *Conservation on Tap*: Prehistoric Ecology of the Driftless Region**

VIROQUA, WI October 25, 2018 –Valley Stewardship Network (VSN) will host another fun, casual and informative program in our new series- *Conservation on Tap*. *Conservation on Tap* is a monthly series of talks and discussions on local conservation topics given by regional experts. This event will be an opportunity for folks to hear engaging presentations about regional conservation topics in a relaxed setting while also getting to sample local brews and beverages. Following each of the speakers' presentation, the audience will be able to chime in with questions and contribute to a broader discussion of the night's conservation topic. "So often," explains John Delaney, VSN Agroecologist and one of the series presenters, "the only places to get in-depth information on the amazing conservation work going on in our area is by attending professional conferences. With *Conservation on Tap*, our local conservation professionals can communicate their work to a broader audience and give our community a better understanding of what makes our region so special." The second in the series- Prehistoric Ecology of the Driftless Region will be Wednesday, November 14, 2018.

Today when we look upon our landscape we see farm fields, pastures, and dense forests throughout the area. These features contribute to our unique and rich ecology of the region, but our ecological landscape hasn't always been this way. Even as recently as 100 years ago, our landscape was more open, with more prairie and savanna habitat than we see today. Before that, even more drastic changes occurred as our local climate has changed over the past 12,000 years. In this presentation, we will travel back in time, and look at how the ecology in our area has changed over decades, centuries, and millennia. Join VSN and Dr. John Delaney as we explore the region through time.

Dr. Delaney received his PhD from Iowa State University in 2014 where he researched biodiversity and pollinator conservation in cattle pastures and tallgrass prairies. As Valley Stewardship Network's agroecologist, John serves farmers and landowners with information and technical services for promoting biodiversity and improving water quality. From his scientific training John brings skills in GIS, statistics, experimental design, and research interpretation to the organization. As a restoration ecologist, John has long been interested in how ecosystems have changed in the past in response to human influence and climatic changes, and how that information can help us understand how to manage our natural resources into the future.

The other topics in the series are: December 12: Half a Billion Years of Driftless History with Kelvin Rodolfo, Professor Emeritus of Earth & Environmental Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago; January 9: Encouraging Biodiversity in the Driftless with Melinda Knutson, retired U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Ecologist; February 13: Managing Storm Water Locally with Rain Barrels & Other Structures by Karl Green, Community Development, Natural Resource & Economic Development Educator, UW-Extension; concluding with March 13: Opportunities in Conservation with Ben Johnston, Kickapoo Valley Reserve, Citizen Science Programs.

This series is held the second Wednesday of day of each month, from October – March at the Rooted Spoon, 219 South Main Street in Viroqua beginning at 7 pm – 9 pm. The event will be FREE, but donations will be accepted and a cash bar will be available. Funding for the series was generously made available through Viroqua Chamber Main Street's SOUP program, shopdriftless.com, Organic Valley, and Kickapoo Coffee Roasters.

For questions, please call 608-637-3615 or email [info@valleystewardshipnetwork.org](mailto:info@valleystewardshipnetwork.org).

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Valley Stewardship Network is celebrating 18 years of land and water stewardship in the Kickapoo Valley and adjacent watersheds. Best known for its water quality monitoring programs, VSN also offers outreach and education programs to help farmers, landowners, residents and visitors understand and support our local ecology for the health of our communities. More at [www.valleystewardshipnetwork.org](http://www.valleystewardshipnetwork.org)