



We champion stewardship of
the land and waters.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Valley Stewardship Network presents *Oak Ecology & Bird Habitat Workshop*

VIROQUA, WI April 20, 2018 – Valley Stewardship Network (VSN) is proud to offer an exciting, family friendly workshop opportunity to learn about managing private lands for oak ecology and bird habitat. “Oaks are important because of timing of the oak bloom and the ease of foraging because of the shape of the bloom.” explains bird expert and conservationist Maggie Jones. “The blooms are where the insects are. The birds are eating little caterpillars within the blooms and the shape of the bloom allows them to perch and walk to get the food and with other tree blooms they have to hover and burn energy in order to get the food.” The event will be held at Maggie Jones and David Linton’s property in Blue River, Crawford County on May 12th from 9 am – 12 pm.



May 12th will be a special day in Crawford County, of exploring forest management, especially oak regeneration, and seeing and hearing forest birds. The arrival of long distance migrants will be in full swing. We will have bird and forest experts including Randy Hoffman, retired DNR Natural Areas specialist, Mike Mossman retired DNR Biologist, Lisa Hartman, retired DNR Biologist, Barbara Duerksen, ornithologist, who leads bird field trips, conducts bird surveys and counts. Mississippi Valley Conservancy Executive Director Carol Abrahamzon and Conservation Director Abbie Church will be with us to discuss Conservation Easements.

We will also have a very special guest, Rob Nurre, a historian who studies the first land surveyors written notes, observations and documentation of the landscape. These surveyors trekked for miles prior to and during European settlement. Rob will personify Mr. Wittse, who walked through Scott Township in the early 1800s, and talk to us about what he saw and how he accomplished his documentation of the land in those early days. This will be an eye opening experience to broaden our understanding of what might be done to restore the land to a healthier more biodiverse environment.

The day will begin with an optional early morning bird walk. If you are interested, please meet at the property at 7:30 am. After, we will join with the full group at 9 am for programming and additional forest and bird walk. We will conclude the day with a pizza lunch from a wood-fired pizza oven. The cost of the workshop is \$10. This will be a wonderful day for adults and children alike so bring the whole family.

“Our forests are being fragmented over time and this reduces their health in many ways. Larger forests are cooler, have more insect life, have less human disturbance, and all this makes it possible for rare long distance migrant forest interior birds to breed successfully.”

Reservations are required. Save your spot today at

<http://valleystewardshipnetwork.org/product/oak-ecology-bird-habitat-workshop/>

For questions, please call 68-637-3615 or email 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