



We champion stewardship of
the land and waters.

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Valley Stewardship Network presents a new program series, *Conservation on Tap*

VIROQUA, WI September 14, 2018 –Valley Stewardship Network (VSN) is pleased announce a fun, casual and informative program series- *Conservation on Tap*. *Conservation on Tap* is a six-part, 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."

Did you know that America's very first watershed conservation effort was started right in our backyard? It's true. America's very first watershed conservation effort was started right in the Coon Valley Watershed in 1933 to address extreme soil erosion by developing and promoting conservation practices. Through the guidance of conservation experts like Aldo Leopold, conservation practices were developed that spread throughout the nation in following years and decades. Valley Stewardship Network's new series will kick off on **Wednesday, October 10th** at 7 pm at the Rooted Spoon in Viroqua with Heidi Keuler, Fish Habitat Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who will share the *Nation's First Conservation Project*. Dave Vetrano, retired WI-DNR Fisheries Biologist will team up with her in this discussion to share, **Driftless Waters**.

A tale of Destruction, Renewal and Hope for the Future. It's a history of land use changes and its effect on the trout resource in the Driftless Area. Together, these conservation professionals boast almost 60 years of experience and are sure to provide an engaging evening.

The other topics in the series are: November 14: Prehistoric Ecology of the Driftless Area by John Delaney, Agroecologist, Valley Stewardship Network; 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 will be 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.

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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