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the land and waters.

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VSN's Conservation on Tap

Loving Our Land – managing for biodiversity in the Driftless Area

VIROQUA, WI December 19, 2018 – Continuing our series of presentations on conservation in the Driftless Area, the Valley Stewardship Network (VSN) is pleased to welcome ecologist Melinda Knutson to the *Conservation on Tap* forum. She will explain why the Driftless Area is so rich with native wildlife

species and suggest ways that landowners and homeowners can promote biodiversity on their properties. “There is so much that landowners can do to enhance their land to benefit wildlife! There are many simple things that can have a big impact,



Photo by Melinda Knutson

such as protecting your windows

from bird strikes or learning to identify some common native and invasive plants and promoting the natives”, explains Knutson. “It doesn’t matter if your property is large or small, everyone can do something. Understanding the life history of species with declining populations will provide key insights into what you can do to enhance your property to attract them. But, you also need to consider what native plant communities will thrive on your land because many of our rare or declining species are habitat specialists; they won’t live just anywhere.”

The event will be held at the Rooted Spoon, 219 S Main St., Viroqua, WI on January 9, 2019 from 7 – 9 pm. The unique landscape of the Driftless Area provides many opportunities to make space for wildlife while enjoying and making a living on the land. Join us to learn more about what you can do to enhance wildlife habitat on your land.

Dr. Melinda Knutson, owner of Trillium Consulting, LLC, is a retired regional biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Dr. Knutson has more than 25 years of experience practicing ecology. She studied birds, frogs, and their habitats as a research wildlife biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, and she designed monitoring and conservation plans for national wildlife refuges while working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In her younger years, she was a beekeeper and a farmer in southeastern Minnesota. She is an avid gardener and enjoys all things outdoors.

The presentation is free and open to the public. 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