



*We champion stewardship of
the land and waters.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

contact:
Nan Marshall
nan@valleystewardshipnetwork.org
608-637-3615

VSN's *Conservation on Tap* – March 11th with Armund D. Bartz

VIROQUA, WI February 17, 2020 – Join Valley Stewardship Network (VSN) for the fourth presentation in our *Conservation on Tap* series. The event takes place, **Wednesday, March 11th**, at 7:00 pm at The Rooted Spoon in Viroqua with Armund D. Bartz who will present *Driftless Prairie, Savanna, and Woodlands – A Journey of Discovery*.

Bartz' talk will take you on a journey through SW Wisconsin to see and discover what remnant prairie and associated savanna/woodland really are. Although uncommon plants dominate these sites, learn how and why reptiles, butterflies and moths, other invertebrates, and some birds largely depend on these sites for their survival and future existence. This talk will get you up close and personal to the unique critters, crawlers, and plants that make up these rare natural communities. The journey will start at the beginning of European settlement and describe what took place up to modern times that left these remaining sites globally rare-to-imperiled and among the most decimated on planet earth. Learn what you can do to help retain these critical sites, including management, volunteering, and/or supporting organizations that carry out protection and management of these beautiful remnants of our natural heritage.

Bartz is the Driftless Area Ecologist for the Wisconsin DNR's Natural Heritage Conservation Program. The focus of his career for the last 21 years has been the inventory, management, and protection of Wisconsin's rare species and natural communities with a focus on remnant prairie and savanna. Stationed in La Crosse, he is responsible for the management of 12 DNR-owned State Natural Areas in a 7-county area. Bartz is very familiar with Driftless Area biodiversity and is excited to share his passion and enthusiasm.

The *Conservation on Tap* series concludes April 8: Taking Stock of Tweety – The State of our Birds by Craig Thompson, WI-DNR.

This series is held the second Wednesday of each month, January – April at the Rooted Spoon, 219 South Main Street in Viroqua, from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. There is a suggested donation of \$5, and a cash bar will be available. Sponsorship for this second season is generously provided by the Rooted Spoon, shopdriftless.com, Kickapoo Coffee Roasters, WiscoPop, and Organic Valley.

For questions, please call 608-637-3615 or email info@valleystewardshipnetwork.org.

#

Valley Stewardship Network is celebrating 20 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.