

Lake States Guild Gathering Stewardship in Perpetuity August 26, 2022

Join the Forest Stewards Guild and the Driftless Area Land Conservancy (DALC) to explore a land trust parcel temporarily named the Spring Valley Tract. These 308 acres donated to DALC hold a lot of restoration potential, in a landscape where many neighbors are dedicated to healthy forest and oak savanna systems as well, so landscape scale results are a huge opportunity here.

A focus will be to provide opportunities for people involved in holistic land management in the region to meet each other, learn from one another, and build connections that help further ecological, economical, and socially responsible forestry on lands that are protected in perpetuity. We'll help land trusts know the foresters who are "putting the forest first" for ecological benefit in management. We'll help land trusts, ecological restoration practitioners, and foresters in the Driftless Region of Wisconsin be aware of access to resources for responsible forestry, even on landscapes dominated (and surrounded) by other ecosystem types such as prairie or sedge meadow.

We will walk a small portion of this site, a budding case study in stewardship toward healthy natural communities. We'll see what's been done so far, what's possible here for Guild-style forestry, and how to accomplish worthy goals.

5.5 Society of American Foresters Category 1 CFE credits approved

AGENDA	
8:30 am CT	Registration Open, refreshments, and boot brushing Meeting location: Spring Valley Tract At the end of Brunson Road, Primrose, WI
8:45 am CT	Introductions Let's get to know who is here and why, for future networking!
9:00 am CT	Site Orientation (Filip Sanna, volunteer site steward) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land acknowledgement • Long-view history of this land and human interactions • How the SVT property came to be part of DALC
9:20 am CT	Forest Stewards Guild and Land Trust intros (Colleen Robinson, Forest Stewards Guild; Mark Mittelstadt, DALC Board and Guild member; Jen Filipiak, Exec Dir DALC)
9:50 am CT	Background of restoration in forestry and the concept of ecological forestry (Brad Hutnik, WI DNR; Luke Saunders, Adaptive Management and Guild member)
10:10	Break – potties, gear up, etc
10:20 – 11:50	Hike and discussions (1 mile round trip, mostly no slope, uneven ground) Stops and topics of discussion (Fil, Jen, Brad) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bio-history and ecological forestry aligned goal of diversity for resiliency • Structural vs functional "restoration" • Management choices on this site support rare conservation value, inspired by the site itself • Importance of forestry knowledge on hand, even when the site is predominantly savanna or wetland or another type. How forestry tools help inform the natural community aspects
11:50 – 12:45	Walk back to barn, lunch/networking, interviews for those who sign up



12:45 – 2:30	Landowner goals and management options (Jen, Brad, Luke, Mark) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic lens: balancing 1) revenue from site, 2) support from cost shares/programs, etc, 3) costs for restoration work. • Revenue from site depends on landowner goals. Here, timber and other working forest options aren't the only thing in mind. Revenue can be earned through the landowner's goal of the property to serve a connection/community engagement that also grows into volunteer service. • How do people afford to do this and what incentives are there? Including easement economics and potential constraints and opportunities for priority areas for mgmt, financial programs/cost share/eligibility, etc. Cover how affordability is a consideration in planning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For example, some easements are paid for and the landowner has money they could put toward mgmt. Most with DALC are donated lands though, so no cash available in that case. ○ Include the various ways a land trust and Guild foresters can help landowners access resources, like-minded practitioners, mgmt choices.
2:30 – 2:45	Break, potty and gear up for hike
2:45 – 4:00	Walk along north-facing slope for case study (Luke, Mark, Brad) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different options for management at one particular spot (i.e., timber, savanna restoration, etc). "What to do?" • Restoration and timber management working together • Working oak woodlands (shifting from regeneration to function) managed with fire and to get timber products b/c savanna is not "productive" in that sense.
4:00 – 4:30	Return to barn, wrap up questions and resources, adjourn (Colleen, Jen, Mark)
5:00 – 8:30	Optional networking and social time outside at The Mill in Paoli (music, food, drinks - pay on your own. Beautiful outdoor setting at a historic water mill).

Please bring:

- 1) Your lunch
- 2) A water bottle (refills will be available)
- 3) Clean, sturdy shoes for walking uneven terrain for about 1.5 miles total for the day
- 4) Dress for weather and potential ticks (long pants, closed shoes, bug spray, hat, sunscreen, rain gear).
- 5) Note: there are 2 – 3 spots in a utility vehicle if walking is not an option. Bathrooms are a porta potty. No running water on site.

When you check in:

- 1) Let us know if you've signed up for an interview
- 2) Please use boot brushes and pail provided to clean your shoes/gear of any dirt. This is prevention related, from invasive earthworms and plants.

