



The Stewardship Network

REIMAGINING CONNECTIONS

THE STEWARDSHIP NETWORK 2021 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

JANUARY 27TH – 29TH, 2021



www.Stewardshipnetwork.org/conference

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WELCOME TO THE 14TH ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP NETWORK CONFERENCE!

When we called for presentation abstracts in April of last year, we knew that this event would be different. We decided early on to make the conference virtual, trusting in our planning team and partners to explore innovative and creative solutions to maintaining the value and sense of place past conferences have provided. This annual gathering of people who are dedicated to caring for land and water fulfills a unique need for those looking to learn and create meaningful change through collaboration; abandoning the opportunity to convene this amazing group of stewards was never an option. We knew that together, we would find a way.

The Collaborative Conservation movement is continuing to gain momentum around the world, and The Stewardship Network is proud to be a pioneering champion of this paradigm shift, which is nothing short of revolutionary. We encourage you to attend some of the "Collaborating Well" sessions to learn more about the mindset and skills that are critical to building on this movement- working well together in pursuit of ecological integrity and healthy partnerships.

Each of you, with your own unique set of experiences, knowledge and skills, brings an irreplaceable perspective to the virtual table around which we gather. You are what makes this conference such a dynamic and exciting place for new ideas, partnerships, and projects. We're deeply grateful to those of you who have been involved with The Stewardship Network for decades, and we're equally excited by the new faces that we see each year at this gathering for thought leaders in the stewardship community.

We come together under this simple truth: By sharing knowledge and resources, we accomplish more, together. That truth persists, and is even fortified by the fact, that The Stewardship Network does not exist in a vacuum. We're living through tumultuous times where differences can tear at the fabric of our communities and relationships. But here is the beauty of this space: While we are not all like-minded, we are like-purposed. All of us here believe in the importance of ecological stewardship; we dedicate our time to a cause that is bigger than ourselves; we honor each other's strengths and contributions; we have hope for a bright future.

Now is your time to connect, grow, and inspire. Over the next few days, we invite you to learn about something completely new; ask difficult questions; step out of your comfort zone; join or create a networking session to connect with others; listen to someone with a widely differing viewpoint; share your "Pivot" story during the Stewardship Story Slam; and share your setbacks, challenges, successes, and aspirations.

At The Stewardship Network, we work to provide a framework for collaborative conservation projects that engage diverse sets of partners. Our mission is to provide the tools, connections, and individualized support necessary to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of your meaningful work. We offer the chance to build community and capacity around shared goals and values so that we may all move forward, and farther, together. We encourage you to check out our website, join us on our monthly webcasts, or connect with other stewards in your community through Stewardship Network events.

After we part ways, we hope that you will take with you a new set of ideas and insights from the people working alongside you in governments, universities and colleges, communities, tribes, businesses, and non-profit organizations that share the same goals of restoring, preserving, and managing natural systems. The dedication and commitment of people like you promises a lasting legacy, and hope for future generations. This event would not be possible without the many volunteers, presenters, sponsors, and attendees, for whom we are deeply grateful.

Thank you for joining us and once again. Welcome to the Reimagining Connections: 2021 Stewardship Network Conference!

Enjoy,

2021 Stewardship Network Conference Planning Committee

Brett Bloom, Oak Farm Montessori School
Celia Larsen, Rudolf Steiner School
Dave Borneman, David Borneman LLC
Lisa Brush, The Stewardship Network
Jacqueline Courteau, NatureWrite LLC

Rob Luzynski, The Stewardship Network
Patrick Scanlon, GILLS CISMA
Melanie Herron, Fair Food Network
Roger LaBine, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa



Our Approach: The Stewardship Network’s approach builds inclusivity into stewardship efforts, while increasing visibility and reach of local place-based community organizations. To that end, TSN embraces the unique backbone supporting role collective impact organizations play in eliciting large-scale change through aligned effort.

- **Ecological Stewardship** – The Network stewards natural ecosystems by integrating traditional methods, cutting-edge research, and field-proven techniques to take action on environmental issues locally, regionally, and around North America.
- **Innovative Approach** - Our innovative collaboration model and network structure combine to form an approach to collaborative conservation designed for the 21st century and beyond.
- **Generous Collaboration** - We create opportunities for partners to build trust and collaborate generously, resulting in genuine and lasting connections that realize the collective potential of our shared stewardship work.
- **Distributed Leadership** - Empowering local leadership with capacity-building support, shared resources, and aligned systems to identify problems, develop solutions, and create change within their communities.

Are you connected?




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Natural Community Services (NCS) is an ecological services firm, specializing in wildlife habitat assessment, native landscape design-build, habitat restoration, green infrastructure, invasive species management, bioengineered erosion control, and sustainable site maintenance.

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GET TO KNOW



The Stewardship Network
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Everyone knows that more can be accomplished if everyone works together and plays to their strengths- so why isn't that happening as we face unprecedented ecological issues? Because collaboration isn't easy. Be it lack of resources, red tape, personal conflict, or the sense that collaborating requires extra time or work, most people choose to keep their heads down and focus on their narrow slice of the pie. At TSN, we know that your hard work and your community are bigger than that.

The Stewardship Network provides the structure, support, and tools for individuals and organizations within a community to collaborate on large scale environmental issues.

- We train local leadership (Community Coordinators and Co-Coordinators) in facilitation and healthy, inclusive collaboration methods for their community
- We assist communities planning, executing, and tracking projects
- We help communities secure funding, and in some cases serve as the fiduciary for grants
- We undertake logistical and administrative burdens where needed so that community members and partners can focus on aspects of the larger picture that fully utilizes their skills or passions
- We provide platforms to showcase projects and initiatives, and connect with other natural area stewards around the world
- We manage and provide the technology for communication and organizing within communities, as well as engaging the wider public in stewardship events and activities
- We convene The Stewardship Network for peer to peer learning at our annual conference



CONFERENCE AGENDA - 2021 Stewardship Network Conference



| Wednesday, January 27, 2021 - ALL TIMES IN EASTERN TIME ZONE | | |
|--|----------|--|
| 12:00 PM | 12:15 PM | Log in /Get acquainted with the conference dashboard |
| 12:15 PM | 12:30 PM | Welcome Event overview • Keynote introduction |
| 12:30 PM | 1:30 PM | Keynote Presentation <i>Stewardship Networking with Passion, Inspiration, and Excellence (PIE)!</i> , Mamie Parker, First African American Chairman of Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Commission, & Northeast Regional Director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service |
| 1:35 PM | 2:15 PM | Concurrent Sessions |
| | | ROOM 1 Restoring Midwest Oak Openings Peter Blank, The Nature Conservancy |
| | | ROOM 2 Working the Woods While Becoming Future Environmental Leaders Jen Howell, Evalyn Bailey, Nathan Hilbrands, Betty Kliewer, and Micah Meindertsma, Calvin Ecosystem Preserve & Native Gardens |
| | | ROOM 3 Landscape Ecology Urban Heat Island Impacts of Backyard Habitats Lauren Hoffman, SmithGroup |
| | | ROOM 4 Something Isn't Right: The Need for Collaborative Training Shawn Johnson, University of Montana; Amy Mickel, Sacramento State; and Devin Landry, CA Landscape Stewardship Network |
| 2:20 PM | 2:40 PM | Activity Session - participate in any of the following: Networking • Bookstore • Poster room |
| 2:45 PM | 3:25 PM | Concurrent Sessions |
| | | ROOM 1 Landscape connectivity and conservation: Concepts, approaches, and examples Lars Brudvig, Michigan State University and Mitch Lettow, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy |
| | | ROOM 2 Operating a volunteer-driven, landowner-focused CWMA Roderick Walker, Blue Ridge PRISM |
| | | ROOM 3 STEW-MAP: Case studies of tool development for getting to know your network of local stakeholders and cultivating support Sophie Plitt, US Forest Service Northern Research Station |
| | | ROOM 4 Something Is Right: Collaborative Leaders Sharon Farrell, Golden Gate Parks Conservancy; Kevin Wright, Marin County; Shawn Johnson, University of Montana; and Lisa Brush, The Stewardship Network |
| 3:30 PM | 4:10 PM | Concurrent Sessions |
| | | ROOM 1 Evaluating the Sustainability of the American System of Land Ownership Steve Thomas, ECT |
| | | ROOM 4 Cornerstones of Collaborative Leadership Amy Mickel, Sacramento State; & Sharon Farrell, Golden Gate Parks Conservancy |
| | | ROOM 3 Introduction to Michigan's Wild Rice Initiative Roger LaBine, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and Barb Barton, Endangered Species Consulting |
| 4:15 PM | 4:45 PM | Activity Session - participate in any of the following: Engaged Enrichment Activities • Networking • Bookstore • Poster room |
| <i>Break in the action</i> | | |
| 6:00 PM | 6:30 PM | Water Ceremony Beatrice Jackson, Grandmother of the Three Fires Midewiwin Lodge |
| 6:30 PM | 7:30 PM | Poster Session/Networking |

| Thursday, January 28, 2021 - ALL TIMES IN EASTERN TIME ZONE | | |
|---|----------|--|
| 12:00 PM | 12:15 PM | Log in /Get acquainted with the conference dashboard |
| 12:15 PM | 12:30 PM | Welcome |
| 12:30 PM | 1:30 PM | Thursday Plenary <i>Reimagining Connections</i> , Facilitated by Lisa Brush, The Stewardship Network |
| 1:35 PM | 2:15 PM | Concurrent Sessions |
| | | ROOM 1 Restoring the Jay Meadow and Gardens in Long Island, New York Kevin Peraino, Jay Heritage Center |
| | | ROOM 2 Reconnecting People and Floodplains: The Social and Ecological Restoration of Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge in Michigan Julia Dellick, Jon Gorter, Anna Greenberg, Xinmiao Liu, and Maria Salem, University of Michigan |
| | | ROOM 3 Lake Superior Manoomin Cultural and Ecosystem Characterization Study Roger LaBine, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and Heather Hosterman, ABT Associates |
| | | ROOM 4 Collaborative Connections: Building Meaningful Relationships Amy Mickel, Sacramento State and Chandni Navalkha, The Lincoln Institute |
| 2:20 PM | 2:40 PM | Activity Session - participate in any of the following: Networking • Bookstore • Poster room |
| 2:45 PM | 3:25 PM | Concurrent Sessions |
| | | ROOM 1 Using Survey 1-2-3 for field assessment and engagement: From pollinator habitat to ecological integrity Sheila Schueller, Zhelin (Penny) Li, Colin Welk, University of Michigan |
| | | ROOM 2 The Advantages and Disadvantages of Volunteers in Reforestation Efforts Meredith Busic and Brandon Perry, Metroparks Toledo |
| | | ROOM 3 Lessons for Community Engagement from Ontario's Battle over Bottled Water Robert Case, Renison University College/Wellington Water Watchers |
| | | ROOM 4 How Systems Shape Us (and Vice Versa) Dylan Skybrook, Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network |
| 3:30 PM | 4:10 PM | Concurrent Sessions |
| | | ROOM 1 Coming of Age at the End of the World: An Existential Toolkit for the Climate Generation Sarah Ray, Humboldt State University |
| | | ROOM 2 Partnerships: A Rewarding Journey for Nonprofits and K-12 Students Charlotte Neuhauser, MBC Association and Danielle Conroyd, River Raisin Institute |
| | | ROOM 3 Stewardship from Scratch Kirsten Lyons, Friends of the St. Clair River |
| | | ROOM 4 Intersections and Integrations: Building DEI and Cross-Cultural Competency Yakuta Poonawalla, Golden Gate Parks Conservancy and Kevin Wright, Marin County |
| 4:15 PM | 4:45 PM | Activity Session - participate in any of the following: Engaged Enrichment Activities • Networking • Bookstore • Poster room |
| <i>Break in the action</i> | | |
| 6:00 PM | 6:30 PM | Networking Activity |
| 6:30 PM | 7:30 PM | Story Slam Patricia Wheeler, Storyteller |



Mamie Parker

First African American Chairman of Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Commission, & Northeast Regional Director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Mamie A. Parker worked almost 30 years as a fish and wildlife biologist for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in Genoa; La Crosse; Green Bay, Madison, and Lake Mills, Wisconsin; Columbia, Missouri; New London and Minneapolis, Minnesota; Atlanta, Georgia; Amherst, MA; and Washington, D.C. During the Clinton Administration,

Parker rose to the rank of Chief of Staff in the Service Headquarters, the first African American to hold this title.

She has outstanding experience in NEPA, Clean Water Act, wetland protection and restoration. This extensive experience led her to receive the Annual Ira Gabrielson Award, an award to given by FWS leaders to the most outstanding leader in the agency. She played a major role in protecting our nation's waters from pollutants and invasive species such as listing the Snakehead fish and Asian Carp as an injurious wildlife species. Parker led the FWS staff, along with partners in developing the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. The President of the United States presented Parker with the Presidential Rank award, the highest award given to government employees.

Parker also led the effort in working with the American Pharmaceutical Association and Wal-Mart to promote a national campaign of smart disposal of medicine and unwanted aquarium fish and plants. She was featured on the NPR's Morning Edition. Parker is a leader in various organizations and serves on the Board of Directors of The Nature Conservancy, Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment, Northland College, Student Conservation Association, the National Wildlife Refuge Association, Brown Advisory Sustainable Investment, Marstel-Day Consulting Company, and the Chesapeake Conservancy.

Former Secretary Madeleine Albright and the Council of World Women Leaders awarded her with an Aspen Institute Fellowship for her work in the Kingdom of Lesotho and in Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa. She recently returned from China where she spoke at the World Fisheries Congress on the impacts of climate change and development in coastal cities and communities of color.

| Friday, January 29, 2021 - ALL TIMES IN EASTERN TIME ZONE | | | |
|---|----------|---|--|
| 12:00 PM | 12:15 PM | Log in /Get acquainted with the conference dashboard | |
| 12:15 PM | 12:30 PM | Welcome | |
| 12:30 PM | 1:30 PM | Keynote <i>Parks & People: A Vision for the 21st Century</i> , Armando Quintero, Director of California State Parks | |
| 1:35 PM | 2:15 PM | Concurrent Sessions | |
| | | ROOM 1 The Biological Diversity of Michigan State Parks Ray Fahlsing, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Division | ROOM 2 Land Management for any Property Nicholas Machinski, Washtenaw County Conservation District |
| | | ROOM 3 Implementing the Phragmites Adaptive Management Framework during a global pandemic Samantha Tank, Great Lakes Commission | ROOM 4 Facilitating It All: Tools and Skills for Convenors and Coordinators Lisa Brush, The Stewardship Network and Shawn Johnson, University of Montana |
| | | Activity Session - participate in any of the following: Engaged Enrichment Activities • Networking • Bookstore • Poster room | |
| 2:45 PM | 3:25 PM | Concurrent Sessions | |
| | | ROOM 1 Invasive Species Control in the Midwest Amy Lipson, City of Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation | ROOM 2 Nature Photography Zachary Brangian, Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy |
| | | ROOM 3 Water for Any Farm Mark Shepard, Restoration Agriculture Development | ROOM 4 Navigating Complexity, Conflict and Change Dylan Skybrook, Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network and Lisa Brush, The Stewardship Network |
| | | Closing event | |
| 3:30 PM | 3:45 PM | | |



JOIN THE CONVERSATION ONLINE!

#stewnet2021

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Share your thoughts, ideas, and photos from this year's conference!

THURSDAY PLENARY

Re-imagining Connections

Facilitated by Lisa Brush, The Stewardship Network

PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

Organized alphabetically.



Lisa Brush has been leading collaborative conservation initiatives in the environmental sector for over two decades. In her role as CEO and Founder of the award-winning Stewardship Network she has engaged thousands of professionals and volunteers in identifying

community and conservation needs of the 21st century and determining strategic support The Network can provide. She has been involved in all aspects of organizational management including foundation/agency relationships; grant based project funding; budget tracking; contract negotiation, implementation, accountability; and staff and board development. Lisa has facilitated strategic planning sessions, focus groups, citizen task forces, community visioning sessions, and public involvement and feedback meetings with groups ranging in size from four to four hundred. Lisa serves on numerous boards of directors, has a BA in Science in Society from Wesleyan University, an MS from University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment, and is a graduate of Michigan State University's Great Lakes Leadership Academy.

Collaborative Connections: Building Meaningful Relationships

Relationships are at the core of collaboration. This session will explore the relational dimensions of collaborative leadership and discuss how relationships are shaped by the way we communicate, share information, and engage in collective action.

Collaborating Well Thought Leadership Group
Amy Mickel, Sacramento State University
Chandni Navalkha, The Lincoln Institute

Coming of Age at the End of the World: An Existential Toolkit for the Climate Generation

A youth movement is reenergizing global environmental activism. The "climate generation"—late millennials and iGen, or Generation Z—is demanding that policy makers and government leaders take immediate action to address the dire outcomes predicted by climate science. Those inheriting our planet's environmental problems expect to encounter challenges, but they may not have the skills to grapple with the feelings of powerlessness and despair that may arise when they confront this seemingly intractable situation. This talk is drawn from Dr. Ray's 2020 book, *A Field Guide to Climate Anxiety: How to Keep Your Cool on a Warming Planet*. Combining insights from psychology, sociology, social movements, mindfulness, and the environmental humanities, the book explains why and how the climate generation (and the rest of us) needs to let go of eco-guilt, resist burnout, and cultivate resilience while advocating for climate justice.

Sarah Ray, Humboldt State University

Cornerstones of Collaborative Leadership

Amy Mickel, author of the Partnership Impact Model, recently developed a companion framework for stewardship practitioners called the Cornerstones of Collaborative Leadership. In this session, Amy will share how the Cornerstones were derived from in-depth research and

an intimate understanding of the core attributes necessary for today's collaborative leaders. Participants will have the opportunity to: (a) explore ways to engage in behaviors that promote collaboration and (b) discuss challenges when confronted with those who discourage collaboration.

Collaborating Well Thought Leadership Group
Amy Mickel, Sacramento State
Sharon Farrell, Golden Gate Parks Conservancy

Evaluating the Sustainability of the American System of Land Ownership

Most Midwestern land is privately owned, and most of this private land is in poor ecological condition—dominated by chemical-dependent monocultures or ever-expanding housing subdivisions. Are there hidden mechanisms in our system of land ownership that discourage ecological stewardship and sustainability? An analysis was conducted upon the land ownership system of the US—i.e. the laws and norms which establish land rights, responsibilities, and usage. The analysis was conducted with a biomimicry-based sustainability model; this model uses a component-level review that can help to ferret out poorly functioning aspects of very complex systems. The analysis focused on how numbers of owners, parcel shape, land transfers, taxing, zoning, parcel size, and residency may be enhancing or detracting from environmental stewardship and human sustainability. Results of this analysis will be presented, with an aim of fostering interactive discussion with the audience.

Steve Thomas, ECT

Facilitating It All: Tools and Skills for Conveners and Coordinators

Collaboration is a practice that includes a set of tools, techniques, and skills grounded in facilitation, coordination, and multi-party negotiation. This session will offer a glimpse into these tools and skills, focusing on how they help collaborative leaders build more informed, inclusive, transparent, and effective processes.

Collaborating Well Thought Leadership Group
Lisa Brush, The Stewardship Network
Shawn Johnson, University of Montana

FRIDAY KEYNOTE

Armando Quintero

Director of California State Parks



Armando Quintero, of San Rafael is the Chair of the California Water Commission and serves as the Executive Director of the University of California, Merced Sierra Nevada Research Institute. He was an independent environmental educator and outdoor trip leader from 1998

to 2008 and held multiple positions with the U.S. National Park Service from 1977 to 1998, including ranger-naturalist, personnelist, district ranger and chief of the special park uses group at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. As an elected Board Member of the Marin Municipal Water District Board of Directors, Mr. Quintero was very involved with the creation of the One Tam Partnership.





Celebrating and Saving Wildlife

The Detroit Zoological Society works to save species and habitats in the Great Lakes, and proudly supports *The Stewardship Network 2020 Conference*.



How Systems Shape Us (and Vice Versa)

We live in a world of intersecting and overlapping systems. While these systems shape and influence the way we interact, we have the ability to use our understanding of systems to affect the way they behave. This session will highlight how a systems and network lens can inform collaborative approaches to landscape-scale issues and demonstrate how a systems worldview can assist collaborative leaders.

Collaborating Well Thought Leadership Group
Dylan Skybrook, Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network

Implementing the Phragmites Adaptive Management Framework during a global pandemic

Through a systematic approach, the Phragmites Adaptive Management Framework (PAMF) engages Phragmites managers throughout the Great Lakes Basin to develop best management practices and provide site-specific management guidance that is based on the results of past management efforts. PAMF is now in its fourth iterative cycle and includes data from hundreds of management units held by private, local, state, provincial, and federal participants across the Great Lakes Basin. PAMF participants were provided the opportunity to attend trainings and utilize in-field assistance to enroll their sites. The COVID-19 pandemic presents new challenges for running a participatory science program, which frequently relies on in-person engagement. This presentation will focus on reflections from adapting learning and engagement approaches to a virtual setting, as well as the latest Phragmites management outcomes from the program.

Samantha Tank, Great Lakes Commission

Intersections and Integrations: Building DEI and Cross-Cultural Competency

Collaborative leadership relies on a core set of principles and values, key among them being inclusivity and solidarity to address shared challenges and opportunities. This session will highlight ways to build awareness and capacity to effectively work across cultures and collaborate authentically with historically marginalized communities.

Collaborating Well Thought Leadership Group
Yakuta Poonawalla, Golden Gate Parks Conservancy
Kevin Wright, Marin County

Introduction to Michigan's Wild Rice Initiative

After decades of leaving wild rice management to Native American tribes, state officials in Michigan formed the Wild Rice Initiative to track how wild rice issues intersect with some government agencies. The Michigan Wild Rice Initiative (MWRI) is a collaboration of the State of Michigan and the twelve federally recognized tribes within Michigan.

Manoomin is an important food source and cultural touchpoint for the Anishnaabe people. Manoomin translates to "the good berry" in Ojibwe. Wherever possible, Ojibwe communities in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan have retained their connections to this important plant, and many continue to cultivate and harvest manoomin each year. In recent years, tribal groups and partners have worked to bolster wild rice populations so future generations can continue harvesting and enjoying this important natural and cultural resource.

In this session you will learn about the MWRI, its background, coordination, what initiated its formation, who's involved, the goals, objectives, subcommittees, and what you can do to help.

Roger LaBine, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior
Chippewa
Barb Barton, Endangered Species Consulting

Invasive Species control in the Midwest

Originally developed as training for our new conservation crew members, this is a basic overview of the main invasive plants we manage at Natural Area Preservation, including identification and management strategies. I'll go over timing, techniques, differentiating from look-a-likes, and nuances I've picked up working in the field.

Amy Lipson, City of Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation

Lake Superior Manoomin Cultural and Ecosystem Characterization Study

Manoomin (wild rice) is integral to the culture, livelihood, and identity of the Anishinaabe within Canada and the United States. Manoomin grows only in the clean waters of the Gichi-manidoo gitigaan (The Great Spirits Garden). The arrival of the Anishinaabe to the Great Lakes Basin was in fulfillment of the prophecy that guided their migration from the Atlantic Northeast westward toward the Great Lakes to where "food

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Thank you to each and every donor to The Stewardship Network.

Your contributions enable us to create a better world through individual, community, and ecosystem resilience. We are honored to work alongside you in your communities and deeply appreciate your generosity.



PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS



grows on the water." In addition to the vital role of Manoomin in the lives of the Anishinaabe, it is also recognized as being ecologically important. In this session you will learn about this project to describe the importance of Manoomin to help foster community stewardship and education; and to inform Manoomin management, protection, and policy in the Lake Superior Basin and throughout the Great Lakes.

Roger LaBine, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Heather Hosterman, Abt Associates

Land Management for any Property

This presentation goes over how a landowner can evaluate their land and create achievable goals for the property. Species inventory, invasive species identification, soil mapping, wetland identification and pre-settlement analysis are all important in determining what the landscape is capable of. These analyses are important when creating goals and figuring out what management approach is needed to achieve those goals. The great thing is that this approach is applicable regardless if it is a backyard or a back 40 acres.

Nicholas Machinski, Washtenaw County Conservation District

Landscape connectivity and conservation: Concepts, approaches, and examples

Landscape connectivity is the degree to which a landscape promotes movement. Connectivity is a key concept in ecology because better-connected landscapes can support a greater number of species, lower rates of extinction, and facilitate ecological processes, such as hydrology. Not surprisingly, connectivity is also an important consideration for stewardship in fragmented landscapes. But how does connectivity work and what approaches, such as corridors, are available to practitioners looking to promote landscape connectivity? In this talk, we will overview the concept of landscape connectivity and describe approaches for promoting connectivity during landscape-scale stewardship efforts. We will then provide an overview of how connectivity is being incorporated into landscape-scale conservation planning in southwest Michigan, where goals focus on promoting water quality, biological diversity, and resiliency in the face of global change.

Lars Brudvig, Michigan State University
Mitch Lettow, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy



Landscape Ecology Urban Heat Island Impacts of Backyard Habitats

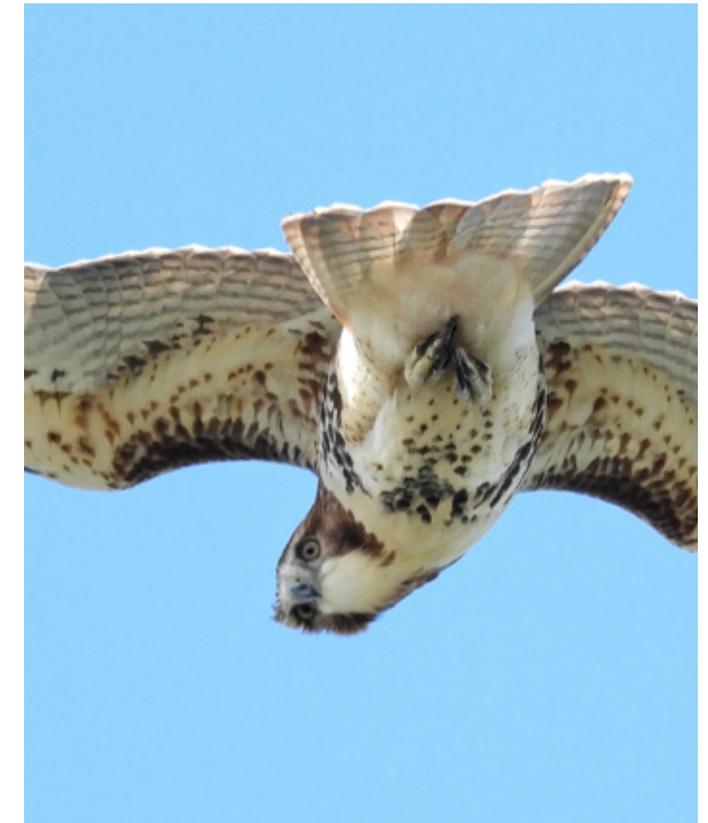
While the importance of conservation and habitat restoration on large land parcels is well understood, the potential for landscape ecological improvement may be greater in individual property owners' back yards, especially in urban and suburban scale. The thermal footprint of different land cover types, sampled with a hi-res UAV-mounted infrared camera throughout the month of August, were compared to determine impacts on urban heat island effect. While it has become common knowledge that heat islands are mitigated by "green" design and exacerbated by impervious area and dark surfaces, we have discovered not all green space is equal. Native plantings have a much greater impact than lawns on both habitat value and heat islands. Considering specific target species, we determine habitat value of urban and suburban landscapes based on the number of property owners who convert a percentage of their lawn to cover managed in accordance with best management practices for habitat.

Lauren Hoffman, SmithGroup

Lessons for Community Engagement from Ontario's Battle over Bottled Water

The Wellington Water Watchers (WWW) is a leading organization in Ontario's battle over groundwater taking for commercial bottling. In this presentation, Robert Case, Chair of the Board of WWW and an Associate Professor in Social Development Studies, describes the evolution of the opposition to for-profit water bottling in Ontario and in combination with the related academic literature draws from it critical insights, quandaries and questions for the building and sustaining of community engagement and democratic participation in policy-making and water stewardship. Anyone interested and/or involved in grassroots mobilization on water/environmental issues is invited to attend to share their experiences, insights and challenges in the discussion session following Rob's presentation.

Robert Case, Renison University College and Wellington Water Watchers



Nature Photography

For conservationists and stewards of our environment, communication about our work is an essential skill. Now, more than ever, compelling images of the places we love are an important part of how we engage with our community, raise funds for our work, and inspire others to action. This session will introduce you to the fundamentals of exposure in manual photography, set against the backdrop of wildlife and landscape image making. Designed for beginners who have not ventured away from the automatic setting of their cameras to the experienced photographer interested in seeing a new approach, this session will include example scenarios from summer to winter, from owls and wetlands. The session will improve your literacy in manual camera operation, lens and equipment choices, and more.

Zachary Branigan, Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy





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Navigating Complexity, Conflict and Change
Working on complex issues with multiple people and interests is challenging, and conflicts will surely arise. This session explores the origins and drivers of conflict as a way to help collaborative leaders better understand complexity, respond to change, and remain focused on the broader needs, interests, and concerns of your diverse community

Collaborating Well Thought Leadership Group
Dylan Skybrook, Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network
Lisa Brush, The Stewardship Network

Operating a volunteer-driven, landowner-focused CWMA
Most CWMAs are organized and run by a combination of governmental units and non-profits. Most of them at least started by focusing on the lands owned or operated by the founders. The Blue Ridge PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) was the first CWMA formed in Virginia (in 2014). From its beginning it has sought to motivate and educate the tens of thousands of landowners in its 10-county territory to take action to remove invasive plants. In the last 5 years the PRISM has generated over a million dollars in federal awards and grants to provide financial assistance to landowners. This presentation discusses the successes of the PRISM and how other interested groups could do the same. The PRISM itself has received no government funding and is run by volunteer landowners.

Roderick Walker, Blue Ridge PRISM

Partnerships: A Rewarding Journey for Nonprofits and K-12 Students
Limited school budgets and resources offer nonprofits an opportunity to fill a void by bringing in-the-field environmental experiences to students. It is known that these experiences help students retain knowledge and remain interested in going to school. We have leveraged partnerships among non-profits, schools, community and governmental groups for over 10 years to provide hands-on environmental programs to school communities. We will share our experiences offering the following programs: Lake Erie Water Festival for 6th graders, River Raisin Water

Festival for 6th graders, fishing club for 5th-6th graders, Environmental Career Days for 7th graders, and Maritime Trades Career Day for 10th-12th grades. Our presentation includes program goals, objectives, curricula and outcomes. We hope to encourage nonprofits and community groups to recognize how they can help fill budgetary and resource gaps in environmental science curricula.

Charlotte Neuhauser, MBC Association
Danielle Conroyd, River Raisin Institute

Reconnecting People and Floodplains: The Social and Ecological Restoration of Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge in Michigan
The Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge is a floodplain where four tributaries merge to form a coastal wetland. The Shiawassee floodplain system has long been disconnected

from the river channels with miles of dikes. This landscape alteration shifted the land cover from lowland forests and wetlands to agricultural and urban development; which has disrupted Shiawassee's ecosystem services and degraded the habitat quality for both vegetation and wildlife. In line with the goals of the Refuge staff to protect this crucial wetland habitat, our project focuses on the completion of data analyses from previous monitoring efforts and continuation of restoration work. The ecological restoration consists of both traditional fieldwork and the exploration of utilizing an ARIS sonar camera to further inform the work. This presentation provides a summary of our progress, presents the findings, and discusses the future directionality and capabilities of the ARIS camera.

Julia Dellick, Jon Gorter, Anna Greenberg, Xinmiao Liu, and Maria Salem, University of Michigan

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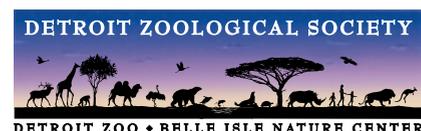
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PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

Restoring the Jay Meadow and Gardens in New York

Kevin Peraino, executive director of the Jay Estate, a 23-acre National Historic Landmark on the shore of Long Island Sound, will discuss how the site is restoring its historic meadow and gardens. The property, which was once the home of Founding Father, jurist, peacemaker, and anti-slavery advocate John Jay, is also the site of an 8,000- to 10,000-year-old meadow that has included artifacts dating back to Paleo-Indian times. Today the landscape is being restored with capital projects including a million-dollar public garden installation (designed by Thomas Woltz) and a meadow of native pollinators.

Kevin Peraino, Jay Heritage Center

Restoring Midwest Oak Openings

The Oak Openings Region is a globally-unique ecosystem stretching across 1300 square miles of northwestern Ohio and southeastern Michigan. It contains rare natural communities including lakeplain wet prairies, black oak/lupine barrens, and mesic sand tallgrass prairies. From 2020-2022, TNC and its partners are restoring nearly 3500 acres of land that have become degraded due to the encroachment of invasive plant species. TNC's Oak Openings Interagency Restoration Team uses methods such as forestry mowing, brush cutting, foliar and cut-stump herbicide application, prescribed fire, and planting native vegetation to restore natural communities in the region. Rare species that may benefit from this work include blazing star borer moth, lark sparrow, and Karner blue butterfly. This presentation will provide an overview of TNC's current restoration projects in the Oak Openings Region.

Peter Blank, The Nature Conservancy



Something Is Right: Collaborative Leaders

In the face of complex challenges and diverse, competing interests, collaborative leaders are finding ways to bridge divides, leverage diverse resources and abilities, and stitch together coalitions of people and organizations that are addressing some of today's most critical conservation and stewardship challenges. This session will highlight trends in collaborative stewardship, showcase notable success stories, and invite participants to imagine the future of this growing and evolving field.

Collaborating Well Thought Leadership Group
Sharon Farrell, Golden Gate Parks Conservancy
Kevin Wright, Marin County, CA
Shawn Johnson, University of Montana
Lisa Brush, The Stewardship Network

Something Isn't Right: The Need for Collaborative Training

We see the challenges facing our communities and landscapes and know we must find a new way to care for our planet and one another. This session explores the challenges and opportunities we face to build healthier, more resilient places where people and nature can thrive. Specific topics will include the impacts of siloed thinking and institutions, growing mistrust in public officials, and a need to address systemic racism and injustice.

Collaborating Well Thought Leadership Group
Shawn Johnson, University of Montana
Amy Mickel, Sacramento State University
Devin Landry, California Landscape Stewardship Network

Stewardship from Scratch

Learn how Friends of the St. Clair River is getting creative and adapting our recipe for success when Mother Nature has other plans. We began the story of our stewardship program with one habitat restoration project, a dozen volunteers, and a caring, connected community. Over a five-year period, we added more than 100 volunteers, additional staff, a dedicated board of directors, increased organizational capacity and several projects. We continued to stir vigorously and added record high water levels, a couple of funding freezes and




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one pandemic. While there is no cookbook for starting or sustaining a stewardship program, there are things we can do to remain flexible, relevant, safe, hopeful and fun. Friends of the St. Clair River is committed to inspiring citizen action to restore, protect and enhance the St. Clair River and its watersheds around the Thumb Coast of Michigan through stewardship, monitoring and education.

Kirsten Lyons, Friends of the St. Clair River




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STEW-MAP: Case studies of tool development for getting to know your network of local stakeholders and cultivating support

Researchers at the USDA Forest Service developed a methodology to answer the question “how do we understand the social, spatial and temporal interactions among actors working on stewardship” or in other words...who takes care of our city or region?” Over the past decade, the stewardship mapping and assessment project, or STEW-MAP has been adapted and applied in over 13 locations around the world. In this session, we will briefly introduce the STEW-MAP approach and share some of the ways that natural resource specialists have worked to assess, map, and organize with civic actors in their communities. Presenters will reflect on their direct experience using STEW-MAP and related social network and civic mapping tools.

Sophie Plitt, US Forest Service Northern Research Station

The Advantages and Disadvantages of Volunteers in Reforestation Efforts

Reforestation is an important part of Metroparks Toledo’s mission to restore its lands to their natural state. Due to the large requirement of time, labor, and resources we started utilizing volunteers in 2015 to ease the burden on the park district and community. In the five years since volunteers started to be regularly recruited for planting projects we have had 450 individual and group volunteers contribute a little over 1,400 hours. These volunteers have helped us re-introduce 50 acres of native deciduous species, employing several planting techniques at most stages of the planting process. Recruiting community members can be beneficial in the completion of the project as well as the individual investment of the project site, but it is also not without its challenges. Using the insight provided by our experiences, we will identify the advantages and disadvantages in utilizing those volunteers in our reforestation efforts.

Meredith Busic and Brandon Perry, Metroparks Toledo

The Biological Diversity of Michigan State Parks

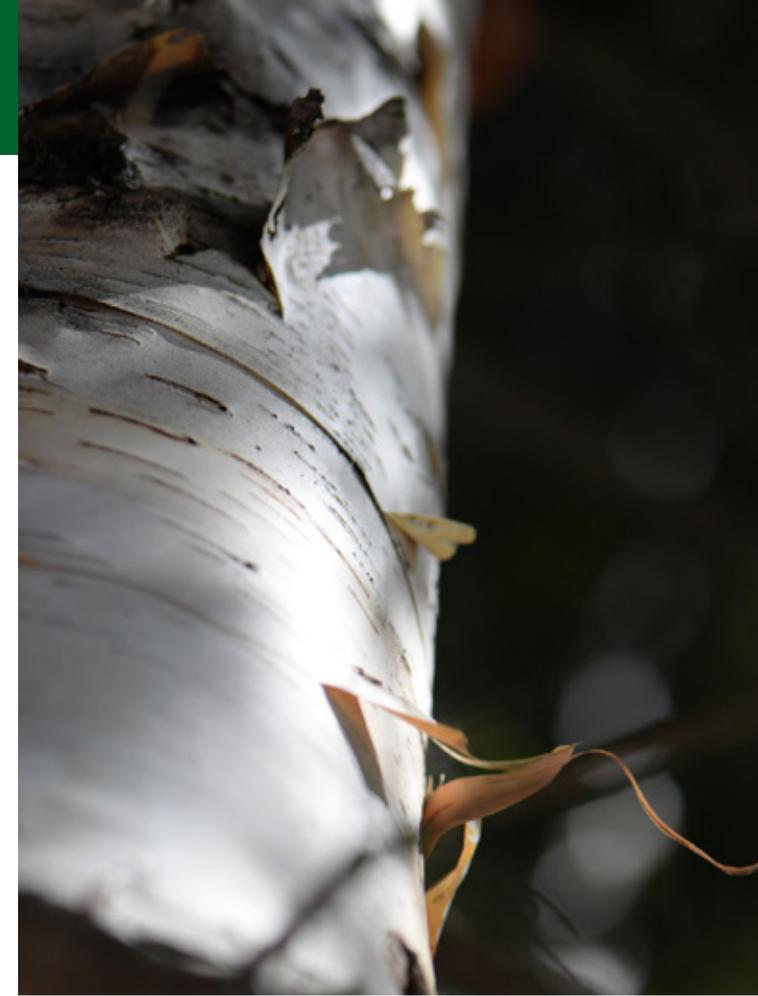
Michigan state parks protect a surprising amount of the native biological diversity of our state. Sixty-three of the 77 different natural community types found in Michigan (Michigan Natural Features Inventory classification) are well represented with 351 exemplary natural community occurrences. Our state parks are home to 256 different endangered, threatened, and special concern species, as well as many animal Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Come explore Michigan’s natural heritage as we visit the Krumholz bedrock shoreline of Fort Wilkins Historic State Park, the sink holes of Rockport Recreation Area, the virgin beech-maple forest of Warren Woods, and many, many more.

Ray Fahlsing, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Using Survey 1-2-3 for field assessment and engagement: From pollinator habitat to ecological integrity

Assessing local-scale habitat features is essential for prioritizing land protection and restoration efforts. However, to get enough information to make landscape-level decisions requires having many parcel or habitat-level assessments. To what extent is that feasible? They would need to be relatively easy and quick to do, and possibly tap into volunteers and citizen scientists. We will present 2 cases of the application of Survey 1-2-3, a mobile device tool, to accomplish two different assessments: pollinator habitat quality in suburban settings to support Bee Campus USA certification of the UM campus, and ecological integrity of natural areas as part of the Huron River Watershed Council Natural Areas Assessment Program. These 2 cases illustrate lessons learned of using Survey 1-2-3 not only to assess a site on a rich set of questions, but to simultaneously engage and educate the data collector. We welcome discussion with others who have used the same or similar tools.

Sheila Schueller, Zhelin Li, and Colin Welk, University of Michigan





NAISMA
Why should you join the North American Invasive Species Management Association?

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Water for Any Farm

We're surrounded on all sides by so many enormous problems that solving any of them almost seems like an impossible task. This workshop will showcase some simple USDA approved agricultural practices that can eliminate up to 90% of all surface runoff and non-point source pollution, reduce toxic algae blooms and contaminated drinking water, while simultaneously sequestering carbon, creating pollinator habitat and diversifying income streams from the land.

Mark Shepard, Restoration Agriculture Development

Working the Woods While Becoming Future Environmental Leaders

See what Calvin University students have been up to the past 30+ years to care for the Calvin Ecosystem Preserve & Native Gardens (CEPNG). The CEPNG—a 104 acre nature preserve within Calvin University's urban campus-- is dedicated to protecting and caring for their lands through restoration, field research, education and community engagement. Join Jen Howell (Land Manager) as she describes the hands-on land management practices she introduces to students to properly care for the preserve while enhancing student credentials and confidence. Then hear from current student employees as they share their worthwhile contributions to long term ecological research projects such as the breeding bird survey, the small mammal population monitoring project and the woodlot tree census. Students will also showcase their personal involvement in developing new invertebrate species monitoring and cartography projects this past summer.

Jen Howell, Calvin Ecosystem Preserve & Native Gardens
Evalyn Bailey, Nathan Hilbrands, Betty Kliewer, and Micah Meindersma, Calvin University



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POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Wednesday 6:30 PM EST

- 1. Vascular Plant Analysis of Ecosystems on the Rouge River Floodplain of the University of Michigan-Dearborn:**
Orin Gelderloos, University of Michigan - Dearborn
Griffin Bray, University of Michigan - Dearborn
- 2. Cayuga Lake Monitoring Program, A Tributary of Lake Ontario**
Cedric Mason, Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now
Stephanie Redmond, Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now
- 3. Developing Modified Airborne eDNA Detection Techniques for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*)**
Meg Sanders, Grand Valley State University
Charlyn Partridge, Grand Valley State University
- 4. Quantifying Carbon Storage with Remote Sensing Techniques**
Jackie Edinger, University of Michigan
Jessica Einck, University of Michigan
Sebastian Kasparian, University of Michigan
Lavran Pagano, University of Michigan

EXPO HALL



Be sure to visit the Expo Hall throughout the conference. You can hop in there at any time to visit the book sale, our beautiful photography competition slideshow, go on virtual field trips, listen to the amazing sounds of ecoacoustics, stretch and feel rejuvenated with yoga, and so much more. Enter by clicking the Expo button on the left side of your hop in screen.

The Stewardship Network Conference 2021 Virtual Book Sale IS LIVE!

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EVENING ACTIVITIES

Water Ceremony

Wednesday 6PM EST

Beatrice Menasé Kwe Jackson

Traditional Healing Consultant, bealivetraditions.com

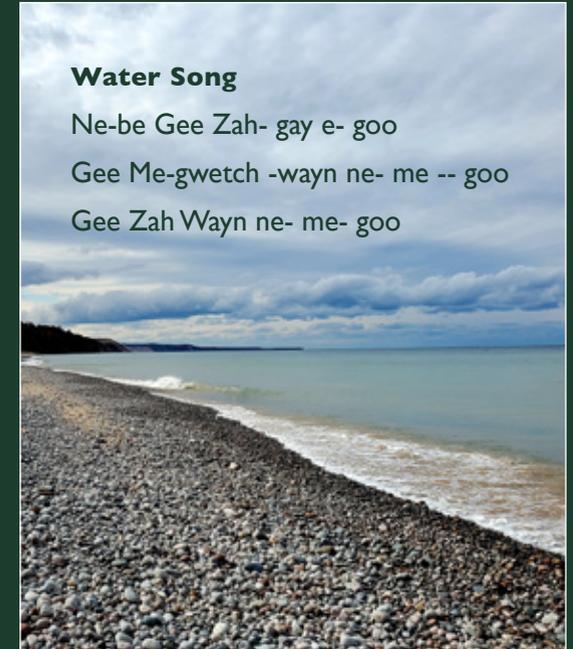
Join us as Beatrice Jackson leads us through this traditional practice that continues to be a deeply cherished and meaningful part of our annual gathering. You will be guided through the mental, physical, and spiritual connection to water as we collectively honor this sacred gift through song, movement, and contemplation. As we dedicate our lives to the betterment of the natural world and connections with one another, we take this time to appreciate water's role in the universe, flowing endlessly through ourselves and everything around us. "When a prayer is said and a song is sung, the water becomes sacred, and can heal body, mind, and spirit." While this traditionally takes place on the banks of the Red Cedar River, Bea will guide us through the ceremony and song online. Please have a glass of water for this ceremony.

Water Song

Ne-be Gee Zah- gay e- goo

Gee Me-gwetch -wayn ne- me -- goo

Gee Zah Wayn ne- me- goo



Stewardship Story Slam

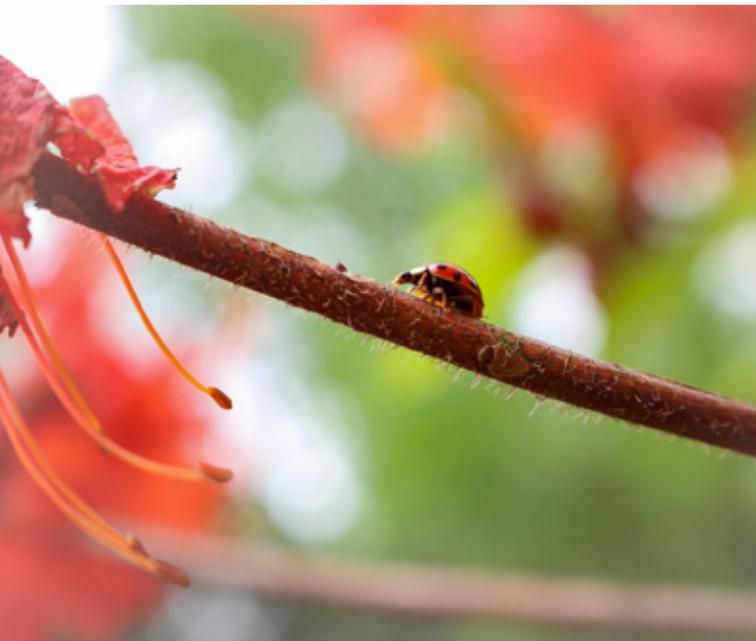
Thursday 6:30PM EST

Session Room

Patricia Wheeler, Storyteller

Please join us for an open-mic storytelling competition. Open to anyone at the conference with a true five-minute story to share on the theme, Pivot - as it relates to nature and your relationship with the natural world. Tell us about a time you had to make a quick change. When you had to go the other direction, change course, change your view on things. Eight tellers will be chosen at random and will be judged by the audience. Come tell a story, or just enjoy the show!





The Stewardship Network

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