

# CONSERVATION CHRONICLE



Newsletter of the Land Resources and Environment Department

*To conserve natural, cultural, and community resources by promoting, planning, and implementing efficient and effective programs.*

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## Area Producer Led Groups Work Together to Host “Conservation Day By The Lake”

The Sauk Soil & Water Improvement Group (SSWIG), the Producers of Lake Redstone, the Lake Wisconsin Farmer Watershed Council, and the Sand County Foundation worked together with support from the University of Wisconsin Extension, Juneau County Land and Water Conservation, Columbia County Land and Water Conservation, and the Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department to host the, “Conservation Day by the Lake” event out at Schoepp Farms, overlooking Lake Wisconsin, on Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. This event provided an opportunity for attendees to learn about getting more out of cover crops through managed grazing, manure management with low disturbance manure injectors, how to reduce inputs by planting green and how to improve farm profitability while protecting natural resources and improving soil health.



*Attendees at the planting green and roller crimper break out session on June 19<sup>th</sup>.*

This event featured keynote speaker, Rick Clark, a 5<sup>th</sup> generation farmer who is using no-till, cover crops, and a seven-crop rotation on his 7,000 acre farm in Warren Co. Indiana. Rick’s farm, Farm Green, consists of

4,200 acres of certified organic land and the remaining acres are in transition to becoming certified organic. Rick shared his knowledge and experience with the audience, and described how he uses a systematic approach to improve soil health and increase farm profitability through management, measuring success not by yield but by return on investment.



*Aerial photo showing demo plots and break out sessions.*

Along with a captivating and informative presentation from Rick Clark, breakout sessions led by farmers from the three producer led groups, along with local experts, provided a unique opportunity to see some of the practices that were discussed in the presentation first hand and ask questions to farmers who are using these practices on their farms. The sessions and demo sites included a rainfall simulator and soil pit presentation, dairy heifers mob grazing a diverse cover crop mix, low disturbance manure injector and manure management, and a roller crimper and planting green demo.

Thank you to all who made this event possible, especially the Schoepp Family who graciously hosted the event and to the Sauk Prairie FFA Alumni who provided a wonderful dinner for all attendees. Thank you to all who were able to join for an afternoon of collaborating and learning.

If you are interested in implementing practices such as rotationally grazing cover crops, there are cost share programs available through the Sauk Soil & Water Improvement Group to anyone who has land within the focus watersheds. Additional cost share programs for practices such as cover crops, no-till, incorporating grass into alfalfa fields, and more are still open. If you would like more information on the cost share programs or you would like to apply, please contact Justine Bula at 608-355-4842 or justine.bula@saukcountywi.gov .

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# Exciting Changes Ahead for the 2022 Tree Sale



Photo Credit: Jim Linwood

The annual Sauk County Tree Sale has been going strong for over 20 years! Each year, we sell approximately 15,000 trees to 150 different customers. It is exciting to see this much interest in the program and 2021 was an exceptional year with a number of nurseries selling out and unable to fill their orders.

## **Online Storefront**

Over the years, the program has grown exponentially making the large number of transactions very difficult to track and, since we are required to charge sales tax, payments can sometimes be incorrectly calculated. **As a result, we have decided to move our tree sale online starting in 2022.** Please visit [www.co.sauk.wi.us/cpz/tree-sale-program](http://www.co.sauk.wi.us/cpz/tree-sale-program) in December to find out how to place your order.

## **Pollinator Species**

Although bees are the most recognizable pollinators for many plants; wasps, flies, butterflies, moths, beetles, & hummingbirds are all important pollinators. They are a critical part of our food system responsible for pollinating approximately three-quarters of the world's major food crops. Many pollinator populations are in decline due to a variety of reasons including loss of habitat. There are other contributing factors like pollution, misuse of chemicals, disease, and changes in climate patterns. To do our part in protecting pollinators, **we will be offering more pollinator focused tree and shrub species in 2022.**

## **Climate Change Adaptation**

Climate change is beginning to pose real threats to trees and shrubs in southern Wisconsin. In 2022, we will highlight which species are more adaptable to climate change while offering new species that are better suited to cope with these stresses.

### **Climate Change is likely to:**

- Influence plant growth & survival
- Affect growing degree days & plant hardiness zones
- Increase forest insect pests & diseases
- Decrease boreal tree species

If you have any questions on the tree sale, please feel free to contact Melissa Schlupp at (608) 355-4838 or [melissa.schlupp@saukcountywi.gov](mailto:melissa.schlupp@saukcountywi.gov).

# Internship Opportunities with Sauk County LRE

The Land Resources and Environment Department has opportunities for summer internships. The purpose of these positions is to provide seasonal assistance in the office across the various service areas. Projects that interns assist with include completing inventories of farms to identify resource concerns and ensure compliance with state agricultural performance standards, survey and design of soil and water conservation practices, surface water monitoring, and provide assistance with land use planning, data collection, and analysis.

The Land Resources and Environment Department was fortunate to welcome three interns to our office this summer. These interns came to Sauk County from across the Midwest, bringing a variety of experiences and knowledge to projects that spanned all three LRE divisions.

Maxwell Lohse is a first-year graduate student at the University of Minnesota pursuing a Master of Urban and Regional Planning. Maxwell grew up in the Twin Cities and Northern Wisconsin and has previously worked in park administration in the Twin Cities in addition to advocacy work with various sustainability groups. Fascinated by environmental and natural resource planning, Maxwell hopes to plan for greener and more sustainable communities in the Great Lakes region. Currently, Maxwell is working with Sauk County to help plan the future of the Great Sauk State Trail and to create master plans for some of Sauk County's most exciting park properties. In his free time, Maxwell enjoys bicycling, photography, and looking at old buildings.

Emily Soderberg, a graduate student at the University of Michigan, who is entering the second year of her Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree program. She is delighted to be a Planning & Zoning intern with Sauk County this summer and has enjoyed her time learning about Sauk County's rich history and touring its beautiful landscape. Her main project has been initiating the master planning process for the Sauk County Farm, a historic 467-acre property owned by the county since 1871.

She has previously worked for several sustainability and food system initiatives in Washington, DC and her hometown of Tucson, Arizona, ranging from industrial composting and urban agriculture to rooftop solar energy design. Upon graduation next year, she plans to return to Wisconsin and continue working in the sustainability sector. Long-term, she hopes to help communities plan for more frequent extreme weather events and build resilience into their recovery operations.

Andrew Shep is a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee at the School of Freshwater Sciences. He is planning on obtaining a MS in Freshwater Science after the Spring of 2022. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater in 2016 and spent 6 years working as a Park Ranger in Dane County. As the Conservation intern for the summer of 2021, he is developing a county wide prioritization list for implementing conservation practices based on watershed rank. He is also working in the field to gather accurate and reliable data on stream discharge and chemistry. This information will allow county conservationists and local ag producers to tackle excessive soil erosion and mitigate non-point pollution sources.



2020 Intern Tess Wallner working on a stream monitoring project.

Thank you to all of our interns for the hard work and assistance with programs! If you or someone you know is interested in an internship with Sauk County LRE the positions are posted in the winter. Requirements for applicants include being a minimum of age 18, individuals must be enrolled as a full-time student at university or technical college majoring in Agriculture, Engineering, Natural Resources, Land Use Planning, Soil Science, Geography, or other related fields. Individuals must have a valid motor vehicle operator's license and be available to work from June through August.

## ***Meet the New LRE Team Members***

### ***Tate Hillmann***

Hello! I am excited to be a part of the Sauk County Land Resources and Environment team as the new Land Use & Sanitation Technician. I recently graduated in 2021 with my B.S. in Natural Resource Planning from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. I am from Markesan, Wisconsin and spent the past few years farming when not in Stevens Point. In my free time I enjoy traveling, hunting, fishing, and running. I am excited to work with such hardworking and devoted coworkers. Contact me for any questions and concerns regarding land use permits and zoning.

Phone: (608) 355-4833 Email: [tate.hillmann@saukcountywi.gov](mailto:tate.hillmann@saukcountywi.gov)



### ***Lori Digmann***

I joined the Sauk County Land Resource and Environment Department in February of 2021 as Program Specialist. I greet people as they come into the office, prepare the committee meetings/board of adjustment meetings agendas and minutes, and update website when needed. I also process accounts payable and receivable, prepare the cost share contracts for the conservation projects and monthly reports for Planning and Zoning. A few times a year, when the septic maintenance notices go out and I help with the incoming calls from property owners that have questions. The staff at Sauk County LRE has made my transition wonderful. Prior to coming to Sauk County I worked in the Prepress/Press Office at LSC Communication for over 30 years up until it closed in October 2020.



I love spending time with my husband Randy and 3 girls Megan (Jordan), Kelsey (John) and Brianna. I have one grand baby that is almost two and he has filled our hearts with so much joy. Summer and fall are my favorite seasons. Retirement will definitely be in a warmer climate in the winter months! I grew up in Northeast Iowa, in the town of Dyersville before moving to Wisconsin in 1990.

Phone: 608-355-3245 Email: [lori.digmann@saukcountywi.gov](mailto:lori.digmann@saukcountywi.gov)

## *Sign Up Now for Conservation Programs*

Most conservation programs are open for sign-up anytime throughout the year and there is no time like the present. Staff can help you determine which program best meets your needs. Applications are scored as they are received and funding is applied to the highest-ranking projects until funding runs out. Here are some of the available programs to consider:

- **Technical and Financial Assistance** is available to landowners to install conservation practices to reduce soil erosion, protect water quality and conserve the natural resources of Sauk County. If approved, landowners can receive up to 70% cost-sharing to install conservation practices including stream crossings, streambank stabilization, and grassed waterways.
- **Nutrient Management Program** assists landowners with the development of plans that address the proper application of fertilizers and animal waste to crop fields and pasture land. Eligible costs include soil sampling tests and plan development by a qualified consultant.
- **Baraboo River Watershed Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)** is a special pool of funding for the Baraboo River Watershed in Sauk and Juneau Counties. Technical and financial assistance is available to install conservation practices that prevent soil erosion and reduce agricultural runoff to ground and surface waters. Eligible practices include rotational grazing infrastructure, cover crops, and streambank stabilization.

Please call the LRE Department at (608) 355-3245 to discuss the conservation needs for your property.

## *New Farmers.gov Features Help You Manage Your USDA Business Online*

Last June, NRCS's Conservation Client Giveaway moved to farmers.gov enabling USDA customers to access multiple conservation features through a platform that provides a customer-centric digital experience. Farmers.gov provides a secure, single desktop-and mobile device-accessible authenticated portal for FSA, NRCS and RMA customers-facing features.

As we've continued to add more content and capabilities, farmers.gov has quickly become the premier online hub for customers to find resources, submit applications and assistance requests, and make connections.

Another new feature is coming to farmers.gov to help you manage your USDA business. You'll now receive an email letting you know that an NRCS document needs your signature, which you can quickly and easily sign online in the portal.

The farmers.gov portal also enables you to:

- View, upload, download, and e-sign documents
- Request financial assistance, including submitting a program application.
- View and submit conservation requests.
- View technical references and submit questions.
- Access information on current and past conservation practices and plans.
- Report practice completion and request practice certification.
- View detailed information on all previous and ongoing contracts.
- Have the authority as an FSA and/or NRCS customer to work in the portal and act on behalf of your active power-of-attorney entitlements and your current authorities for business entities.

These conservation features join several others already available through the farmers.gov portal, including the ability to view farm loan information. We'll continue to update you about new features as they become available.

### **New farmers.gov users:**

If you do not have login information for farmers.gov, you can create your login profile, eAuthentication by following the instructions at farmers.gov/sign-in.

*Contributed by Ciji Taylor, USDA*

# Sauk County Clean Sweep

Saturday, September 25, 2021 from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Old Sauk County Landfill  
E8795 Evergreen Lane, Baraboo



## Dispose of household hazardous waste safely.

Items accepted for **no charge** include: pesticides, cleaners, oil-based paint, batteries, light bulbs, and a wide variety of electronics.

For more information call 608-355-3245 or email [conservation@saukcountywi.gov](mailto:conservation@saukcountywi.gov)



*If you are or recently were ill, please stay home.*



*Stay in your vehicle at all times while at Clean Sweep. Event staff will unload items at each station.*

*In an effort to minimize close contact, items located in the cab or passenger seats of vehicles will not be accepted. Please make sure ALL items are loaded in the rear of vehicle, trunk, truck bed, or trailer to be unloaded by the event staff.*

*ALL electronic items need to be cleaned/wiped down before they are brought to the event, electronic items that are not cleaned/wiped down may not be accepted.*

*Latex paint is not accepted at Sauk County Clean Sweep events.*

### Fees for Tires

Car and light truck tires	\$6
Car and light truck w/rims	\$8
Ag and Semi tires	\$13
Ag and Semi tires w/ rims	\$25
<13" tires	\$2
<13" w/rims	\$4

Payment for tires can be made in CASH or CHECK payable to Sauk County Treasurer.

### What is NOT ACCEPTED:

- Latex Paint
- Pharmaceuticals, IVs, needles
- Explosives, detonators, blasting caps
- Radioactive materials including smoke alarms
- Infectious and biological waste
- Compressed gas cylinders
- Recyclables, yard and household waste
- Asbestos
- Demolition Materials
- Mattresses

Small businesses **MUST pre-register for Paint & Chemicals with Veolia at least 1 week prior.**  
Please contact Zach Davis at (262) 253-3504.

Agricultural producers should contact Sauk County directly at (608) 355-4842.

No Late registration will be accepted

Resource Solutions will accept the following items at Clean Sweep:

\*Please remove all batteries from electronics\*

**No Charge:** CPUs, Computer Printers, Speakers, Scanners, Fax Machines, Vacuum Cleaners, Phones, Laptops, Record Players, Tape Players, CD Players, iPods, VCRs, DVD Players, Beta Tape Players, Electric Saws, Drills, Calculators, Paper Shredders, Coffee Machines, Heaters, Game Systems, Sewing Machines, Electronic Toys, Most Household electrical items.

\$1-\$10 - Battery Removal Fee

10 - Hard Drive Removal and Destruction

\$15 - Microwaves & Large Copy Machines

\$20 - Small AC Units, mini fridges, dehumidifiers

\$25 - Stoves, washers, dryers, dishwashers, treadmills, lawn mowers (oil/gas drained, tires removed)

\$35 - Refrigerators & Large Freezers

\$20 - All monitors, CRT & Flat Screen

\$20 - CRT/Flat Screen TVs 29" and under

\$40 - CRT/Flat Screen TVs 30"-49"

\$60 - CRT/Flat Screen TVs 50" and up, projection, wooden console

Payment for electronics can be made in CASH, CREDIT, or CHECK payable to Resource Solutions at the event.

Contact Resource Solutions at (608) 244-5451 regarding electronic items not included on the list above.



## ***DNR Foresters offer information & assistance to Sauk County woodland owners that are interested in planting tree seedlings***

**H**ave you thought about planting tree seedlings on your property? Planting tree seedlings could be done for creating wildlife habitat, timber management or aesthetics. These trees could be hand planted or machine planted.

DNR foresters are available to meet with Sauk County landowners that are interested in planting tree seedlings. Foresters can meet landowners on their property and introduce landowners to activities involved with planting tree seedlings. If a tree planting project is significant (in number of trees to plant and acres), a tree planting plan can be developed at no cost for the landowner. This plan, in conjunction with guidance from a DNR forester, will prepare landowners for a successful project. Plans address landowner objectives and give recommendations on site preparation, various species, plantation maintenance, equipment needs, and any other questions pertaining to tree planting.

Financial assistance programs may be available to you for tree planting. Other services include rental of tree planting machines, tree planting tools and pruning equipment.

Additional information on tree planting can be found at the DNR Forestry Tree Planting website: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/TreePlanting/>

If you have questions about tree planting, or would like to schedule a property visit with DNR Forester in Sauk County, please contact:

Paul L. Kloppenburg  
124 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Room 31

Baraboo, WI 53913

Cell Phone: (608) 604-4846 Email: [Paul.Kloppenburg@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Paul.Kloppenburg@wisconsin.gov)



## ***Assistance is Only a Phone Call Away!***

Contact the LRE office at (608) 355-3245 if you are interested in any of the services listed:

- **Soil Health Assessment:** LRE staff are available to complete free soil health assessments on farms. Staff will determine how well your soil can absorb water, using compaction and infiltration tests. A slake test will also be completed to determine your soil's vulnerability to runoff and erosion.
- **Soil Sampling:** Soil samples will help you identify where lime applications should occur and is the basis for your nutrient management plan. Soil augers and soil sample bags are available at the LRE office.
- **Nutrient Management Plan Writing Assistance:** Our staff can help you write or update your nutrient management plan. If you have taken the NMFE class in the past, LRE staff can assist you with updating your nutrient management plan.
- **Manure Spreader Calibration:** If you spread manure and don't know your rate, staff from the LRE office can calibrate your spreader so you know what you're spreading.

### ***Read Your Newsletter Online!***

**W**ould you prefer to read the Conservation Chronicle online? Please e-mail [conservation@saukcountywi.gov](mailto:conservation@saukcountywi.gov) if you would like to receive an email notifying you when the newsletter is available for viewing at <https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/landconservation> This will help us reduce postage costs as well as paper. If you know of someone who would enjoy receiving this newsletter, please let us know!

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Follow us on Facebook and stay up-to-date on events, deadlines, articles, videos, and more!



Search @sauk.lre then "like"

# Upcoming Events

## Pasture Walks

- **Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM**, hosted by Bula's Pleasant Valley Farm located at S4515 Scenic Rd, Baraboo. Learn about how to train cows to eat thistle and other weeds as well as multi species grazing.
- **Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM**, hosted by Dale Gasser at E7602 Spring Dr, Sauk City. This pasture walk will focus on cattle handling facilities along with reclaiming areas that were bale grazed with annuals and/or perennials.

Please contact Serge Koenig, 608-355-4837 or [serge.koenig@saukcountywi.gov](mailto:serge.koenig@saukcountywi.gov) for more information.

## Fresh Food Fest

Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup> from 9am until 3pm in downtown Baraboo on the courthouse lawn. Fresh Food Fest is an outdoor farmers market designed to showcase local growers and bring awareness to healthy, local food options in our community. The event will feature live demonstrations, giveaways, and kids activities.

## Baraboo Riverfest

Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9am until 4pm at the Greg Wise Pavilion inside the Maxwell-Potter Conservancy located at 700 Hill St, Baraboo. Riverfest will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the last dams being removed from the Baraboo River. The waterway became the longest stretch of restored, free-flowing river in the US. The event will feature a run on the Baraboo Riverwalk, a canoe regatta in the Baraboo River, demonstrations of fish shocking and water rescue techniques, and performances by local bands.

## Conserve Sauk Film Festival

Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> from 10am until 5pm at the UW—Platteville Baraboo Sauk County Campus. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for updates on this event. For more information on this festival please visit the website: [www.conservesaukfilmfest.org](http://www.conservesaukfilmfest.org)

## *Is It Time to Get Your Well Water Tested?*

The luxury of quality drinking water is something that many of us take for granted. Municipal public water supplies are subject to strict guidelines and water quality testing to ensure that the water meets the current drinking water standards and is safe to drink. However, there are over 800,000 private wells that serve as the primary water supply for a large number of people throughout the state. Well water can be contaminated from a variety of sources, and most water pollutants cannot be easily detected by taste or smell. Getting your water tested annually is the best way to determine if your water has been contaminated by chemicals or bacteria. In a recent survey conducted by UW-Stevens Point, 73% of survey respondents had not tested their well water in the last five years. **Is it time to get your well water tested?**

Residents can pick up testing materials at the Extension Sauk County office located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the West Square Building at 505 Broadway, Baraboo and send in their samples to the UW Stevens Point Water & Environmental Analysis Lab. More information about this testing program (including ordering the testing bottles online) can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/wellwatertest> or contact Jen Erickson, Sauk County Extension at 608-355-3250 or [Jennifer.erickson@wisc.edu](mailto:Jennifer.erickson@wisc.edu).

Sauk County Land Resources & Environment and Extension also offer a well water testing program for Sauk County's rural residents on a rotating schedule. The Sauk County well water program provides a convenient opportunity to test your water and learn about the issues facing well water in Sauk County. This fall residents living in the Towns of Honey Creek, Prairie du Sac, and Troy will have an opportunity to participate in a Well Water Testing Program. Participants will learn about their well water quality and what actions they can take to protect Sauk County's groundwater. To find out more visit: [www.sauk.extension.wisc.edu/community-development/sauk-county-drinking-water-program/](http://www.sauk.extension.wisc.edu/community-development/sauk-county-drinking-water-program/)




**Please note:** if you are pregnant or have an infant under 1 year old, the Sauk County Public Health Department will provide a free water test kit. Call 608-355-3290 for more information on this specific program.

Sauk County LRE  
505 Broadway, Ste. 248  
Baraboo, WI 53913  
www.co.sauk.wi.us  
conservation@saukcountywi.gov

Nonprofit Org  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Baraboo, WI 53913  
Permit No. 105

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LRE..... (608) 355-3245  
NRCS..... (608) 355-4420, ext. 3  
FSA..... (608) 355-4420, ext. 2  
DNR Foresters ..... (608) 235-5685  
APHIS (WDS) ..... (608) 837-2727  
1-866-487-3297

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## ***Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)***

**C**REP pays landowners to install filter strips along waterways or to return continually flooded fields to wetlands while leaving the remainder of the adjacent land in agricultural production. Thousands of Wisconsin landowners have enrolled land in one of two enrollment options: 15-Year Agreement or Perpetual Easement. Currently, there are about 32 easements and 117 agreements enrolling 2,500+ acres into CREP in Sauk County.



### What land is eligible for CREP?

Eligible land must be located in one of about 50 designated CREP counties, have a history of crop or pasture land, and be located within 150 feet of a ditch, stream, lake, or wetland. The typical CREP site consists of buffers ranging from 30 to 150 feet wide along a stream.

### What are the eligible conservation practices?

There are many different conservation practice options through the CREP program. The practice installed on a property depends on both site factors and desires of the landowner. Conservation practices include filter strips, riparian buffers, grassed waterways, wetland restorations, marginal pastureland habitat buffers, permanent introduced grasses, permanent native grasses, grass prairie ecosystem restorations, and established legumes and grass.

For more information, please contact Serge Koenig at 608-355-4837 or [serge.koenig@saukcountywi.gov](mailto:serge.koenig@saukcountywi.gov).