

A photograph of a forest wetland. In the foreground, a small stream flows through a dense thicket of yellow wildflowers. Several large, moss-covered logs are scattered across the scene, some partially submerged in the water. The background is filled with tall, thin trees, likely deciduous, with bare branches, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

Caring For Private Wetlands

Tracy Hames

Wisconsin Wetlands Association

March 20, 2015

Wisconsin Wetlands Association

- Non-profit
- Non-governmental
- Non-partisan
- Membership based
- Statewide
- Dedicated to the protection, restoration, and enjoyment of wetlands
- Science-based outreach & education

Wisconsin Wetlands Association

We help people and communities
care for wetlands

Wisconsin Wetland Loss

- Wisconsin has lost nearly HALF of its original 10 million acres of wetlands
- Much of the remaining wetlands are altered and degraded

Private Landowner Outreach

- **75% of Wisconsin's wetlands are in private ownership**
- **As much as 85% of Wisconsin's potentially restorable wetlands are in private ownership**



What is Wisconsin Wetlands Association doing to support private landowners? (our approach in talking with landowners)



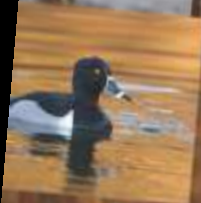
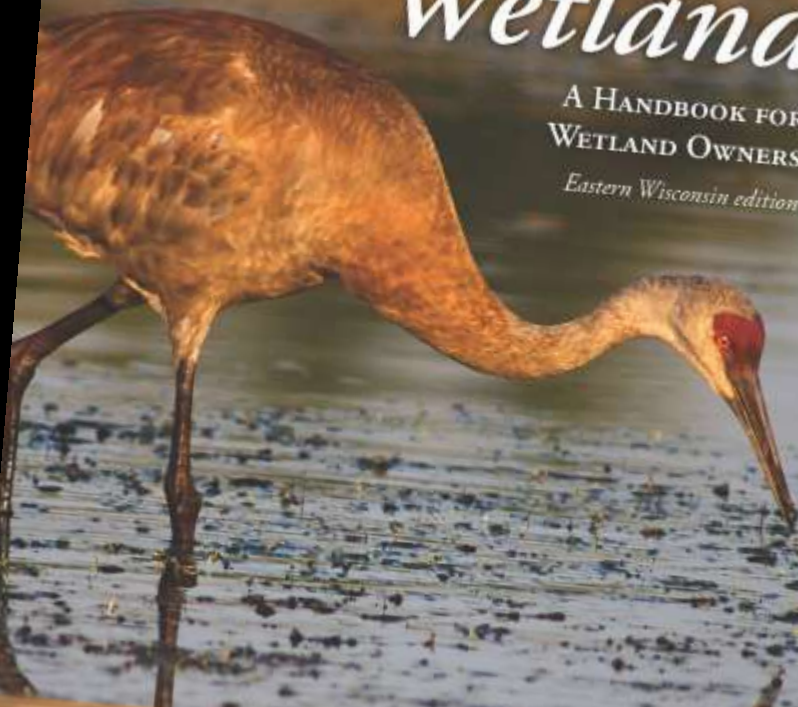
- Publications & resources
- Training & support
- Connecting landowners

...How can we help you?

My Healthy Wetland

A HANDBOOK FOR
WETLAND OWNERS

Eastern Wisconsin edition



*A publication of Wisconsin Wetlands Association
and the Aldo Leopold Foundation*

A photograph of a deer with small antlers eating grass in a wetland. The deer is shown in profile, facing left, with its mouth open as it chews on a piece of green grass. The background is a dense field of tall, green grasses, slightly out of focus. The overall scene is a natural, outdoor setting.

What Are Wetlands?

Marsh



Open Bog



Coniferous (spruce) Bog



Floodplain Forest



Alder Thicket



Shrub Carr



Lowland Hardwood Swamp



Fen



Sedge Meadow



Ephemeral Pond





What Good Are Wetlands?

Wetlands Regulate Water

Capture Snowmelt

Charge Groundwater

Keep Water Cool

Slow the Flow

Keep Nutrients in Balance

Provide Habitat

**Reduce Erosion &
Sediment**

Reduce Flooding

Enhance Biodiversity

Provide Beauty



Wetlands Capture Melting Snow



Charge Groundwater



Wetlands feed creeks cool, clean water



Nutrient and Carbon Processing



Wetlands Reduce Flooding



Wetlands Reduce Erosion



Incised Creek



Wetlands Capture Sediment



Protect Shorelines



A photograph showing a person and a child walking away from the camera through a field of tall, dry grass. The person is wearing a white bucket hat, a white t-shirt, and dark pants, and has a large black gear bag slung over their shoulders. The child is wearing a blue and white striped shirt and a blue and white cap. The background is a vast, open field of grass under a bright sky.

Getting to Know My Wetland

Get your feet wet





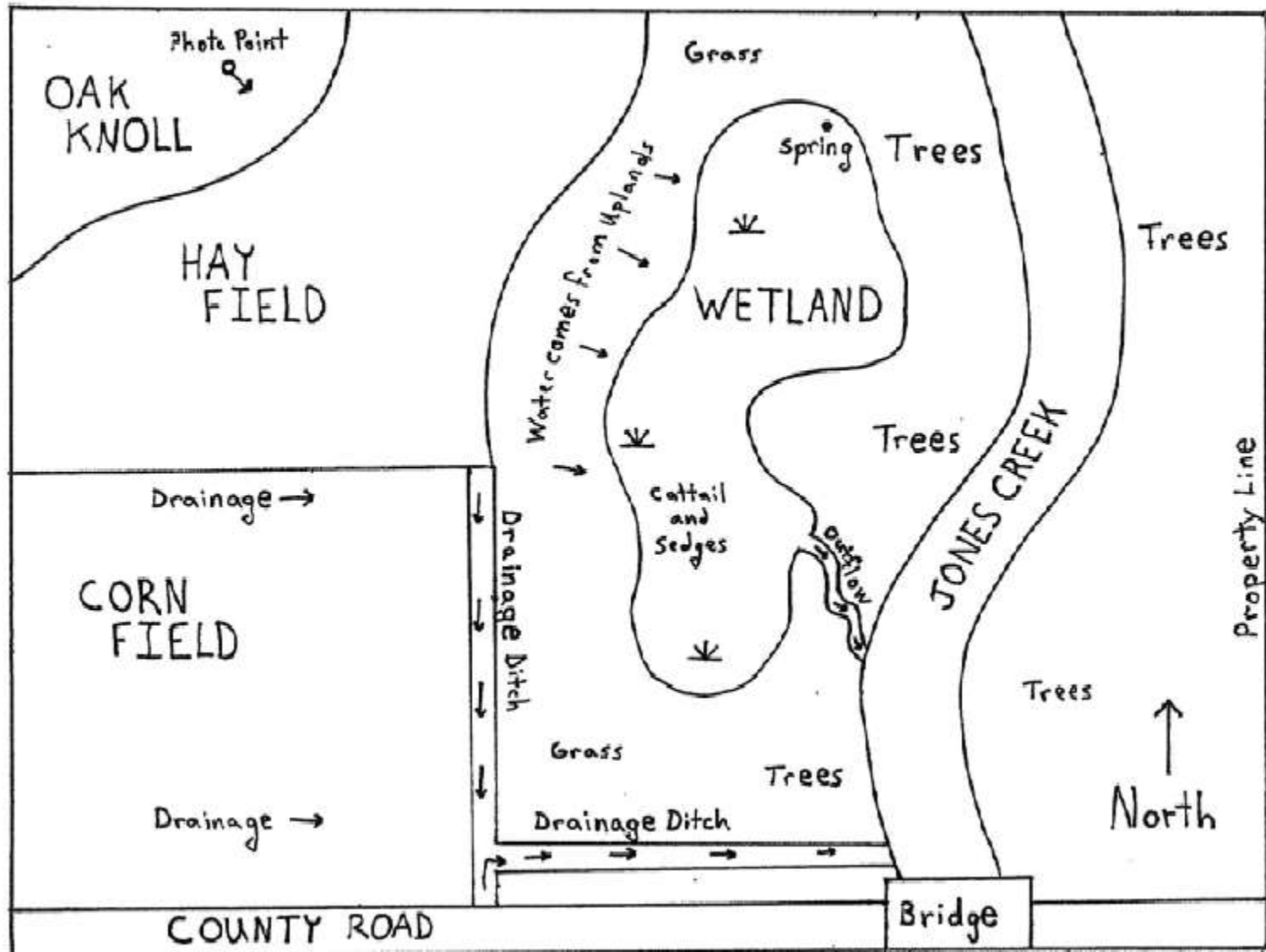
Get to know what's out there



Learn your wetland's history



Make a map





Site Planning

CONNECTING UNDERSTANDING WITH ACTION

Set your goals

Site Plan for Helen and Pete's Wetland

GOAL: BRING WATER BACK ON THE LAND, RESTORING WATER FLOW AS BEST AS POSSIBLE

Objective 1: Remove drainage

Task 1: Meet with a wetland professional to develop plan for reconnecting and managing water flows and to handle any necessary permitting

Task 2: Fill ditch through the middle of the wetland using on-site soil or clean, weed-free soil from off site

Objective 2: Bring back natural water level changes to promote desired plants for waterfowl

Task 1: Install water control structure downstream in wetland

Task 2: Develop and implement water level management plan



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- How did your wetland function historically?
- What's changed?
- How can you bring back historic conditions in a modern context?

A man with white hair and glasses, wearing a blue and white plaid shirt and yellow work gloves, stands in a lush green wetland. He is holding a long wooden stake vertically. The background is filled with dense vegetation, including tall grasses and various trees and shrubs. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

*Actions for a Healthy
Wetland*



IMPROVING YOUR WETLAND'S HYDROLOGY



PREVENTING AND CONTROLLING
INVASIVE SPECIES

A photograph of two monarch butterflies perched on a purple flower. The butterfly in the foreground is facing right, showing its bright orange wings with black veins and white spots along the edges. The second butterfly is slightly behind and to the left, also on the same flower. The background is a soft-focus field of green foliage and purple flowers.

**MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING
PLANT AND WILDLIFE DIVERSITY**



Care for it
and they will come.

Healthy water attracts wildlife



Artificial Structures



Wood Duck Habitat



Beavers & Watershed Health



Diversity Matters



Don't Dig Here



*Wetland Regulations,
Property Values, and Taxes*



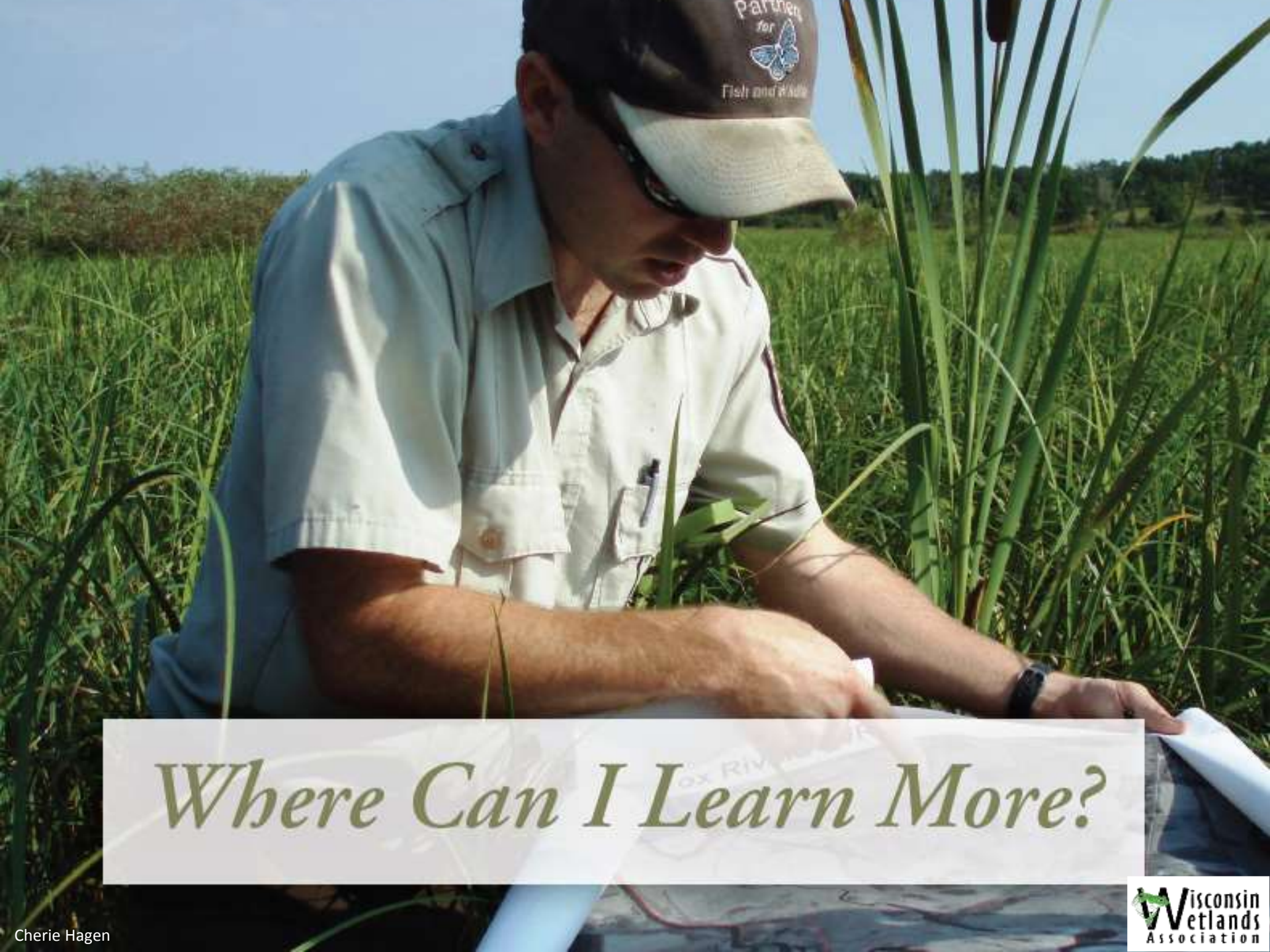
*Preserving My Wetland
Into the Future*

Wetlands are solutions to our water issues!





Thinking Long Term



Where Can I Learn More?

Help with:



4511 Helgesen Drive
Madison, WI 53718
608-221-1206
www.fws.gov/midwest/partners

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Partners for Fish and Wildlife

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife program is a statewide, results-oriented conservation delivery program. Wildlife biologists work one-on-one with private landowners, offering technical and financial assistance to improve their lands for fish and wildlife. Program biologists work within the needs and desires of private landowners to identify, design, and implement projects that restore upland, wetland, and riparian habitat.

Help with:



naturalresources.uwex.edu
(click on "Find an Educator"
to locate a natural resources
educator in your area)

University of Wisconsin–Extension Environmental Resources Center (ERC)

ERC offers state-of-the-art applied research, communication, and education focused on the "human dimensions" of environmental issues. The mission of the ERC is to empower individuals and communities to make conscious, well-informed decisions about their environments and the social processes involved in caring for those environments. The Regional Natural Resources Program, housed within the ERC, includes a team of Natural Resource Educators located across the state. The educators provide local and statewide education, training, and technical support for environmental and natural resource issues.

Kate Padmont

Help with:



P.O. Box 7921
Madison WI 53707-7921
920-662-5452
dnr.wi.gov (enter keyword "wetland")

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)

WDNR is dedicated to working with the citizens and businesses of Wisconsin while preserving and enhancing the natural resources of Wisconsin. In partnership with individuals and organizations, WDNR staff members manage fish, wildlife, forests, air and water resources, and parks while promoting a healthy, sustainable environment and a full range of outdoor opportunities. Many different programs within WDNR involve wetland conservation and restoration, including the Forestry, Land, and Water Divisions.

Help with:



702 E. Johnson St.
Madison, WI 53703
608-441-2677
www.wlwca.org (click "About Us" and then
"County Land Conservation" to find your
local LWCD)

Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA)

WLWCA is a nonprofit organization representing Wisconsin's County Land Conservation Committees and Departments to conserve and enhance Wisconsin's natural resources. County Land and Water Conservation Departments (LWCDs) are the primary local delivery system of natural resource programs. LWCDs understand local land and water resource problems and solutions and are an excellent source for conservation assistance and planning. They provide educational, technical, financial, and conservation planning assistance to help land users and communities control soil erosion, manage natural communities and wildlife, and protect lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater.



learn more



technical



regulations



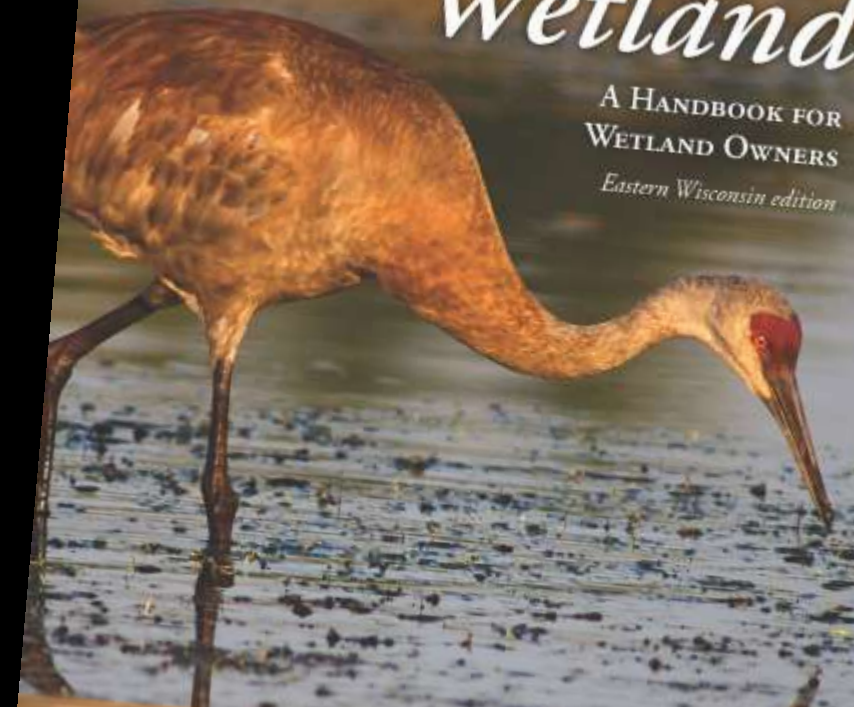
preserve



financial

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and the Aldo Leopold Foundation*

Only
\$10

Copies
available
here



Other resources for landowners: *My Healthy Wetland* Clearinghouse

wisconsinwetlands.org/MyHealthyWetlands/managing.htm#managing

TheBigShare | Inbox Personal Email | Constant Contact : L... | Facebook | WI Wildlife Action Pl... | DNR Staff Directory ... | Home | 2015 Wiscon...



Home

Who We Are

Our Programs

Issues and News

Join / Give

Calendar

Wetland Directory

Protecting Wetlands

Wetlands of Wisconsin

Restoring Wetlands

Resources and Links

Contact Us!



Western Chorus Frog

Promoting Wetland Wildlife Habitat

[Partners for Fish and Wildlife](#)

USFWS

The Partners for Fish & Wildlife program works with private landowners to improve fish and wildlife habitat on their lands. This program works with partners and landowners to share funding, materials, equipment, labor, and expertise to meet both the landowner's restoration goals and USFWS's conservation mission.

[Habitat Management Guidelines for Amphibians and Reptiles of the Midwest](#), 2nd Edition

Midwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

These habitat management guidelines use the best science available to provide guidance on the management and restoration of habitats such that amphibians, reptiles, and many other wildlife species may benefit. The guidelines are easy to understand and provide practical tips and tools for land managers and private landowners. The guidelines, which were produced by the Midwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, are part of an award-winning series.

[Wildlife And Your Land Series](#)

Wisconsin DNR

The Wildlife and Your Land series is designed to offer suggestions to the private landowner on how to manage land for wildlife. Each part of the series focuses on management practices that landowners can apply to their land.

[Living with Wetlands: A Handbook for Homeowners in Northeastern Illinois](#)

The Wetlands Initiative

This 28-page, full-color book by the Wetlands Initiative (first printed in 1998, reprinted in 2004) is designed to give private landowners in northeastern Illinois a better understanding of your nearby wetland ecosystems. Living with Wetlands includes an overview of different wetland habitats, the important services they provide, and existing protections for wetlands. It also offers tips on protecting the wetland you live near, including steps you can take in and around your home, as well as basic management

Other
resources for
landowners:

Free
quarterly
e-newsletter

My Healthy Wetland

A Newsletter for Wetland Owners
provided by
Wisconsin Wetlands Association

Fall 2014

In This Issue

Keeping a Field Journal
Controlling Invasive
Cattails
Canvasback Ducks Have
Arrived in Wisconsin!

Quick Links

Click on the links below
for more resources for
Wetland Owners:

[Identifying wetlands](#)
[Protecting wetlands](#)
[Enjoying wetlands](#)
[Managing wetlands](#)

Dear Tara,

Welcome to the first issue of *My Healthy Wetland*, a quarterly e-newsletter for wetland landowners. You are receiving this e-newsletter because you are interested in caring for your wetlands and ordered a copy of the recently published *My Healthy Wetland* handbook for wetland owners.

This quarterly e-newsletter will provide you with information about actions--big and small--you can take to improve your wetland. If there's something in particular you'd like more information about, let us know! And rest assured that we won't share your email address, we won't flood your inbox, and we'll only contact you with information related to caring for your wetland.

We want to hear from you. Please [complete this very short survey](#) (not more than 8 questions) to share your feedback on the *My Healthy Wetland* handbook and let us know how we can help you care for your wetlands. We also welcome your questions or comments [via email](#) or call us at 608-250-9971.

-Wisconsin Wetlands Association

Other resources for landowners:

Field workshops



Door County
Ozaukee & Sheboygan Counties



Make caring for your wetlands part of the “norm” for landowners



- How can we help you better help wetland landowners?
- Do you work with landowners who are / could be “ambassadors”?
- What tools do landowners in your county need?



Gary Shackelford