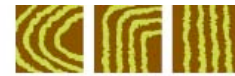


Partnering for Progress: Celebrating Rural Communities



council of rural initiatives

Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems



*Kick up your heels with us under the Harvest Moon Saturday, September 25, 2010
to celebrate Wisconsin farms, food and rural heritage!*

August 13, 2010

Dear Friends of Wisconsin agriculture and rural landscapes:

Partnering for Progress is a collaboration of Gathering Waters Conservancy, the Council of Rural Initiatives, Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership and the Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers. We began working together in 2009 to enhance our respective missions toward the shared goal of keeping life in Wisconsin's rural communities thriving.

Agriculture and food production are the foundation of Wisconsin's social fabric and economy—it's a \$59 billion industry. And one that depends on the state's agricultural and forestry lands. Together we conserve Wisconsin's working lands, support beginning and continuing farmers, and sustain vibrant, rural communities to improve rural life in Wisconsin.

Last year we held an **old-fashioned barn dance and harvest celebration on a historic, working dairy farm** to celebrate the season's harvest, Wisconsin's farmers and working lands, and our rural heritage, and recognize the need to conserve the state's natural resources for everyone's benefit. We built partnerships and raised vital funds to support our work to improve rural life. And we had fun!

The enthusiasm from the inaugural event has been so invigorating **we decided to make this an annual harvest celebration** and build on this synergy to promote the importance of Wisconsin's working lands and rural communities. We hope to expand the event statewide in future years.

Please join the fun and this honorable endeavor by attending *Partnering for Progress'* 2nd Annual Barn Dance. Everyone is welcome, but capacity is limited, so buy tickets early!

Event Details

The Klessig and Heimerl families, who own and operate the Saxon Homestead Farm—a fifth-generation, grass-based, family dairy farm that crafts its milk into artisanal cheeses—are again graciously hosting the celebration in their restored, 160-year-old dairy barn in Cleveland, Wis. Area growers and chefs are generously preparing to share their products, skills and creativity. And this year we have added more culture born from the land.

Partnering for Progress: Celebrating Rural Communities

2nd Annual BARN DANCE

Saturday, Sept. 25, 2010 • 5 p.m.–10 p.m.

Saxon Homestead Farm, 15621 South Union Road, Cleveland, Wis.

- ✕ Old-fashioned barn dance with music by the King Comets—a lively, swing band.
- ✕ A scrumptious, locally grown, harvest appetizer buffet including some of Wisconsin’s finest artisanal cheeses and a refreshment bar with Wisconsin microbrews, wine and cider.
- ✕ **Special guest Jerry Apps**, Wisconsin author, storyteller and historian, **will read briefly from his book “Barns of Wisconsin”**.
- ✕ **Wisconsin Rural Art Show and Sale** featuring the work of Water’s Edge Artists and award-winning painter Bonnita Budysz, who spearheaded the exhibit “*Farm Stories: Studies of a Disappearing Landscape*,” which won an award of excellence for its historical significance. **Meet Wisconsin artists and authors**, purchase their work and have them sign it.
- ✕ Door prizes, displays, conversation, beautiful scenery and fun on the farm!

We are excited to have sponsors already supporting our cause and we welcome more. *Thank you:* We Energies, Growing Power, Badgerland Financial, Uplands Cheese Company, Capital Brewery, Nutrition Service Co., Opitz family, Diercks Family Coloma Farm, Dairyland Power Cooperative, Cedar Grove Cheese, Perfect Environmental Performance, Wisconsin Towns Association and Manitowoc Engraving.

Complete and return the ticket order form as soon as you can. Ticket sales benefit all four organizations and are 100-percent tax deductible. We’ve enclosed an event flyer you can post or share with others, more information about our organizations, a map to the farm, and some area accommodations and attractions if you’d like a weekend getaway to explore Lake Michigan’s beautiful western shore.

Questions? Contact Jim Kettler at 920-304-1919 or jim@lnrp.org

We look forward to celebrating with you. *Thank you!*

TICKET ORDER FORM

Couple \$85.00 x _____ = _____
Individual \$50.00 x _____ = _____
Student \$20.00 x _____ = _____
Total Enclosed _____

Please make checks payable to Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership Inc. or LNRP, Attn: Jim Kettler, 7003 Cedar View, Cleveland WI 53015.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

E-mail: _____

_____ Yes, I would like to receive a complimentary, one-year membership to Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership and Gathering Waters Conservancy, including their newsletters and other benefits.

Partnering for Progress: Celebrating Rural Communities

Area Accommodations and Attractions

Expand the celebration of Wisconsin's rural culture through the weekend.

ATTRACTIONS (a sampling)

Wisconsin Maritime Museum, Rogers Street Fishing Village
Pinecrest Historical Village
Two Rivers Historic Farm Museum
Wade House Historic Site Museum
Woodland Dunes Nature Center & Preserve
Kohler-Andrae State Park, Sanderling Nature Center
Broughton Sheboygan Marsh Park, Wildlife Area & Tower

Maywood Environmental Park, Sheboygan
Kettle Moraine State Forest and Scenic Drive
Whispering Orchards, Cleveland, and other apple growers
Henning Cheese, Gibbsville Cheese Company and others
Kelley Country Creamery Ice Cream, Fond du Lac
Bahr Creek Llamas & Fiber Studio, Cedar Grove
Trout Springs Winery, Greenleaf

BED AND BREAKFASTS

Brownstone Inn

Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53081
877-279-6786, 920-451-0644
www.brownstoneinn.com

Lake Orchard Farm Bed and Breakfast

Closest to Saxon Homestead Farm
Nate and Mary Calkins
Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53083
877-831-1107, 920-693-8336
lakeorchardretreat.com

Lake View Mansion Bed and Breakfast Inc.

Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53081
920-457-5253
www.lakeviewmansion.com

English Manor Bed and Breakfast

Susan and William Hundley
Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53081
800-557-5277, 920-208-1952
www.english-manor.com

The Fringe, A Country Inn

Carl and Ruth Paul
Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin 53085
866-374-6430, 920-467-3172
www.thefringecountryinn.com

Rochester Inn

Sean and Jacquelyn O'Dwanny
Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin 53085
920-467-3123
www.rochesterinn.com

Gilbert Huson House

Glen Kazmierski
Plymouth, Wisconsin 53073
920-892-2222
www.husonhouse.com

Harmony Hills in the Hollow Bed and Breakfast

Lou and Ruth Jaeger
Plymouth, Wisconsin 53073
920-528-8233

Inn on Hillwind

Kim and Art Jasso
Plymouth, Wisconsin 53073
877-892-2199, 920-892-2199
www.innonhillwind.com

Tauschek's Bed and Breakfast Log Home

Steve and MaryJane Tauschek
Plymouth, Wisconsin 53073
920-876-5087
www.tauscheksbedandbreakfastloghome.com

Christi's Inn LLC

Christi Lueck-Sadiq and Steve Knapp
Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin 53020
920-876-3346
www.christisinn.com

Jay Lee Inn

Monica and Leo Lettow
Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin 53020
920-876-2910
www.jayleeinn.com

Westport Bed and Breakfast

Janice and Paul Zencka
Manitowoc, Wisconsin 54220
888-686-0465, 920-686-0465
www.thewestport.com

Red Forest Bed and Breakfast

Kay and Alan Rodewald
Two Rivers, Wisconsin 54241
888-250-2272, 920-793-1794
www.redforestbb.com

HOTELS

Holiday Inn Hotel Manitowoc, 920-682-6000, 800-465-4329, \$80.00 room block rate until Sept. 4, 2010 (Group Code CRI)
AmericInn of Manitowoc, 920-684-3344, 800-634-3444 Holiday Inn Express Sheboygan, 920-451-8700, 877-859-5095

Partnering for Progress: Celebrating Rural Communities

A collaboration to conserve farmland and natural resources, support beginning and continuing farmers, and sustain vibrant, rural communities to improve rural life in Wisconsin.

Gathering Waters Conservancy's mission is to help communities, land trusts and landowners protect the places that make Wisconsin special, and was a key partner in the effort to get the Working Lands Initiative passed into law. As the service center for Wisconsin's 50-plus land trusts, Gathering Waters has long recognized the need to empower land trusts and local communities to protect farmland.



Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP) is the leading environmental advocate on the waters of northeast Wisconsin fostering stewardship in the planet's largest watershed and taking action to champion the environment. As a diverse group of people, it uses education and coordination to support local communities' efforts to maintain or improve our natural resources' health. LNRP builds partnerships, provides funding, promotes a forum for discussion and supports activities advocating a balance between land use and natural resource management, conservation and protection.

The **Council of Rural Initiatives (CRI)** evolved from the Wisconsin Academy's comprehensive, 2007 *Future of Farming and Rural Life in Wisconsin* project to implement its recommendations. CRI works to create a more sustainable, diverse and economically viable future for our rural communities. To achieve this, CRI builds networks, coalitions and partnerships that engage rural citizens and local leadership to collaborate in civic action about in issues affecting their communities. Currently CRI is focusing on working lands and environmental sustainability, rural labor and rural oral health care.



council of rural initiatives

Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems

The **Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers (WSBDF)** is a program of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems and Farm and Industry Short Course. In addition to the U.W.-Madison location, it offers distance-learning education at ten sites throughout Wisconsin. The WSBDF emphasizes business planning and pasture-based farm management. Experienced grazers, business leaders and U.W. faculty lead seminars. Coursework demonstrates how pasture-based farming is the lowest-capital approach to farming and how the pasture-based system protects soil, water and wildlife resources.



Saxon Homestead Farm is a fifth-generation, family partnership by Robert Klessig and Kathleen Block-Klessig, Karl and Elizabeth Klessig, Gerald Heimerl and Elise Klessig-Heimerl, and their families. The farm combines rotational grazing, dairy cattle, dairy steers and seasonal calving as the agricultural operation's foundation. It is dedicated to creating high-quality milk from an efficient and profitable production system; animal comfort; land, water, and environmental stewardship; and family and employee well-being.