



Innovations on the Land

National Conservation Symposium

Madison, Wisconsin | June 23-25, 2024

Sand County Foundation is a national nonprofit organization that inspires and empowers farmers, ranchers, and other landowners to ethically care for soil, water, and wildlife habitat.

We draw inspiration from America's leading conservation thinker, Aldo Leopold, author of *A Sand County Almanac*. Scan below to learn more about Aldo Leopold and a land ethic.



Dear Friends,

We are thrilled you have joined us here in Madison! Welcome to America's Dairyland.

For many of us on the Sand County Foundation Board of Directors and staff, we consider Madison and the surrounding area home. We are grateful to you for making the trip to this part of the beautiful upper Midwest where family farms have been woven into the natural landscape for generations. You'll have a chance to visit one such farm this week.

Sand County Foundation presents the "Innovations on the Land" symposium to bring together conservation-minded farmers, ranchers, forestland managers and conservation leaders from multiple sectors to learn with, and from, one another.

I encourage you to take advantage of every moment to connect with your fellow attendees who are here from 25 states across the nation. Each has conservation story or insight to share that you won't want to miss.

May you leave here inspired and energized to continue your own conservation journey at home.

Kevin McAleese
Sand County Foundation President and CEO

Aldo Leopold's Shack - Baraboo, Wisconsin

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

1:00 PM - 4:30 PM Aldo Leopold's Shack Tour

Bus departs 1:00 PM sharp. It loads between 12:45 and 12:55 PM at street level, one level above the lobby. Use at 7th floor exit near The Market. Your guides include Dr. Stanley Temple - University of Wisconsin Professor Emeritus, and Dr. Richard Cates - Cates Family Farm, recipient of the 2013 Wisconsin Leopold Conservation Award. They are members of the Sand County Foundation Board of Directors. A special thank you to the Aldo Leopold Foundation for making this tour possible.

5:00 PM - 5:15 PM Meet and Greet for Mentees - Grand Plaza

Mentees who participate in Sand County Foundation's Land Ethic Mentorship will meet for a special welcome.

5:15 PM - 7:00 PM Welcome Reception on the Shores of Lake Mendota – Grand Plaza

Nothing beats a late June evening at the lake. Enjoy drinks, heavy appetizers and opening remarks outdoors. In case of rain – gather in the Nolan Gallery.



Lake Mendota - Madison, Wisconsin

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MONDAY, JUNE 24

7:00 - 7:45 AM Breakfast – Nolan Gallery – Dine indoors in Ballroom A or outdoors on the terrace

8:00 AM Welcome – Ballrooms B & C

- Kevin McAleese – Sand County Foundation President & CEO
- Homer Buell – Sand County Foundation Chairman of the Board, and Nebraska Leopold Conservation Award Recipient
- The Lay of the Land and Water Quality Challenges – Professor Emily Stanley – University of Wisconsin Center for Limnology
- Jeff Endres – Chairman, Yahara Pride Farms – Endres Berryridge Farms
- Lance Irving – VP Leopold Conservation Award – Sand County Foundation

9:00 AM Conservation Success Stories from the Field

- Pete and Meagan Lannon – Montana Leopold Conservation Award recipients
- Loran Steinlage – Iowa Leopold Conservation Award recipient

10:20 AM Break

10:35 AM Industry Panel Discussion: Ecosystem Services Opportunities for Your Farm or Ranch.

- Dr. Kate Ivancic, Soil Scientist – General Mills
- Tyler Williams, Sustainable Systems Agronomist – Bayer ForGround
- Jeff Carver, Head of Commercial and Technical Services, BioEnergy – BASF
- Dr. Heidi Peterson, VP Agricultural Research & Conservation – Sand County Foundation

12:00 - 1:00 PM Lunch – Nolan Gallery – Dine indoors in Ballroom A or outdoors on the terrace.

Scan for speaker bios



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NRCS helps
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conserve soil,
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**Farm Credit is proud to support the
Sand County Foundation and its network of
land stewards who are conserving our natural resources.**

MONDAY, JUNE 24

1:10 PM Conservation Success Stories from the Field

- Tuda Libby Crews - New Mexico Leopold Conservation Award recipient
- Kevin Warring - Maryland Leopold Conservation Award recipient

2:40 PM Panel Discussion: Mentoring Beginning and Historically Underserved Farmers

- Jon Bednarski - Kentucky Leopold Conservation Award recipient
- Soonnyoung Min - Kentucky Land Ethic Mentee
- Ron Brooks - Wisconsin Leopold Conservation Award recipient
- Jean Lam - Oklahoma Land Ethic Mentee
- Nikki D'Adamo-Damery - Conservation Outreach & Equity Director - Sand County Foundation

3:15 PM Break

3:30 - 4:30 PM Power Hour Table Sessions of Your Choice

- NRCS Programs - Karen Woodrich, Deputy Chief of Programs - NRCS
- Conservation Easements - John Larson, Senior VP - American Farmland Trust
- Succession Planning - Paul Dietmann, Senior Focused Lending Specialist - Compeer Financial
- Conservation Topics with Leopold Conservation Award Featured Speakers - Tuda Libby Crews, Meagan and Pete Lannon, Loran Steinlage, Kevin Warring.

5:30 PM – 6:45 PM Reception - Grand Plaza (Rain location: Nolan Gallery)

Gather lakeside for a cocktail reception before heading inside for dinner and conversation.

6:45 – 8:30 PM Dinner – Ballrooms B & C

Keynote Speaker - USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief Terry Cosby



Scan for speaker bios

TUESDAY, JUNE 25

7:00 - 7:45 AM Breakfast - Nolan Gallery

Dine indoors in Ballroom A or outdoors on the terrace.

8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Morning Session - Communication and Outreach

How do you tell your conservation story for maximum impact? Hear from a panel of seasoned Leopold Conservation Award-winning landowners and an experienced Land Ethic Mentorship Mentee about their community engagement, media relations, social media content creation and more.

- Seth Watkins - Iowa Leopold Conservation Award recipient
- Addie Yoder - Missouri Leopold Conservation Award recipient
- Alice Crothers - Maryland Leopold Conservation Award recipient
- Lorenzo Dominguez - New Mexico Land Ethic Mentee
- Casey Langan - Communications Director - Sand County Foundation

Scan for speaker bios



High-Gem Holsteins & Normandes - Neosho, Wisconsin

Grow a Regenerative Future with **Your Story.**

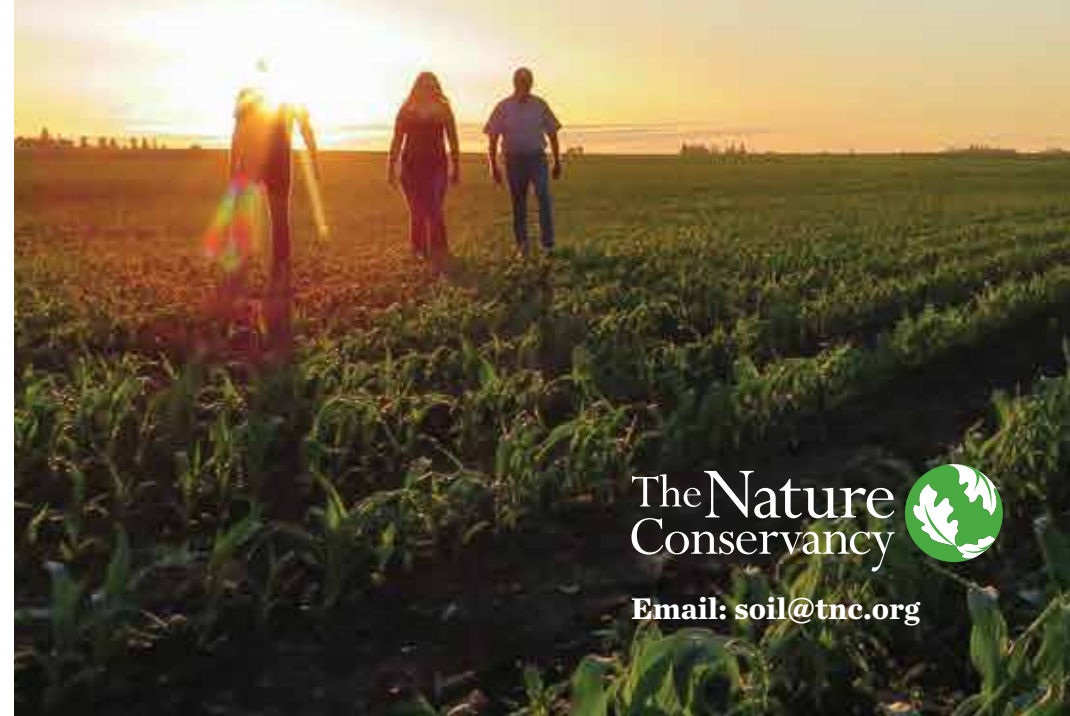
Farmers have enormous opportunities to rebuild soil health, protect water, mitigate climate change, and enhance wildlife habitat. But only a fraction of U.S. farmers is using regenerative practices.

Your story can make a difference.

Farmers who have successfully adopted regenerative practices can share their experiences with friends, neighbors, and peers. The Nature Conservancy works to support farmer-to-farmer networking, a powerful means to scale regenerative agriculture.

Your story matters.

Use it to help grow a regenerative future with us.



The Nature
Conservancy 

Email: soil@tnc.org

FIELD TOUR

9:45 AM Buses load street level, one level above the lobby. Use 7th floor exit near The Market. Buses depart at 10:00 AM.

Get a front row look at Wisconsin's innovative dairy industry and farmer-led water conservation successes with a visit to Endres Berryridge Farms. This tour includes an on-farm discussion followed by lunch at Indian Lake County Park - gateway to the ecologically important Driftless Area which was untouched by glaciers.

- Jeff Endres - Chairman, Yahara Pride Farms - Owner, Endres Berryridge Farms
- John Koepke - Wisconsin Leopold Conservation Award recipient
- Nancy Kavazanjian - Hammer Kavazanjian Farms
- Roger Bindl - Bindl Farms
- Craig Ficenec - Senior Director Agricultural Conservation - Sand County Foundation
- Greg Olson - Field Projects Director - Sand County Foundation
- Kim Meyer - Dane County Land & Water Agronomist
- Eric Krueger - Dane County Conservation Specialist
- Chris Schellpfeffer - VP External Relations - Sand County Foundation

2:30 - 3:00 Return to Edgewater Hotel

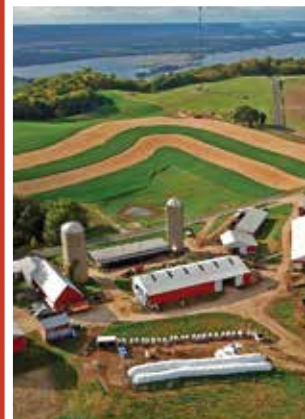
Scan for speaker bios



Endres Berryridge Farms - Waunakee, Wisconsin



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is proud to support the Sand
County Foundation and
Leopold Conservation Awards.

You'll find other ways to express your land ethic by visiting our website at sandcountyfoundation.org



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Noll's Dairy Farm - Alma, Wisconsin

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