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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Free workshop opportunity: learn how to be an environmental steward just in time for Earth Day 2008

Mequon, WI (March 27, 2008): You don't have to wait for Earth Day to save the planet.

On Saturday, April 12 at the **Mequon Nature Preserve, 8200 W. County Line Road** in Mequon, environmental science experts and educators will offer a **free** morning workshop from 9:00am to 1:00pm including lunch. Environmental stewardship techniques and opportunities for people of all ages to get involved in preserving natural areas and local habitats will be presented.

Workshop topics will include how to identify and remove invasive plant species, opportunities to restore natural areas in Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Washington Counties, and renewable energy options for homeowners.

"People can be stewards right at home just as Wisconsin's own Aldo Leopold taught us, by learning how to identify and remove invasive plants, or consider installing renewable energy technology for their home," says Shawn Graff, Executive Director of the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust based in West Bend.

Kristin Gies, Manager of the Mequon Nature Preserve, says that her hope is for people to get excited about what the Preserve and environmental education center has to offer at the 438 acre, quiet sanctuary away from the hubbub of the city - hiking, bird-watching, and other outdoor activities.

An opening session at 9:00am will explore what it means to be an environmental steward, followed by sessions discussing water and wetlands monitoring by Bruce Bessert, Assistant Professor at **Concordia University of Wisconsin**; how to maintain our natural habitats such as woodlands, wetlands, and prairie by Kristin Gies of Mequon Nature Preserve; and a look at renewable energy from **Pieper Electric, Inc.** Opportunities at local nature areas to get dirty (tree planting or removing invasive plants, that is) will also be presented on April 12. To reserve your spot in this exciting day, please call 262-242-8055 or email Kristin Gies at kgies@owlt.org

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The mission of the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust is to protect and preserve the natural areas, open spaces and rural character of Ozaukee and Washington Counties. Through conservation, education and outreach, the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust will preserve the region's rich natural and rural heritage for the benefit of future generations.

More information available at www.owlt.org