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Great Lake Gathering: Mequon October 8, 2008, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Mequon Nature Preserve

Ozaukee Washington Land Trust and Gathering Waters Conservancy invite you to join us on October 8th for the **Mequon Great Lake Gathering**. The Gathering will be from 5:30 – 8:30 pm at the Mequon Nature Preserve.

Everyone who shares a common love for the natural treasures in the Lake Michigan basin is encouraged to attend: business owners, elected officials, landowners, economic development organizations, conservation groups, chambers of commerce, community organization members, and the general public. The Great Lake Gathering will introduce participants to new partners who are working to protect this treasure in our shared back yard.

Among other speakers, the Gathering will feature:

Welcome remarks by Mequon's Mayor Christine Nuernberg

Keynote Address by Secretary Rod Nilsestuen, WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Secretary Nilsestuen has led the charge to preserve Wisconsin's working agricultural and forest lands. In 2005, Nilsestuen convened the Working Lands Initiative Steering Committee, a diverse group of leaders who share an interest in keeping Wisconsin's working lands in production and healthy. That committee proposed a statewide Purchase of Development Rights program which, if instated, would be an invaluable tool for communities, farmers, and land trusts working to preserve Wisconsin's farmland.

Panel Discussion – Local Conservation Successes

Tony Warren, President, West Bend Mutual Insurance Company

Shawn Graff, Executive Director, Ozaukee Washington Land Trust

Marcus White, Director of Community Partnerships, Greater Milwaukee Foundation

Claus Dunkelberg, Water Industry Specialist, Milwaukee 7 Water Council

The Gathering is open to the public and there is no charge to attend. All participants will receive a "toolkit" of information and resources to inspire them to begin implementing new conservation projects in their own backyards and in their communities.

If you live, work, or enjoy spending time in the Lake Michigan Basin, mark your calendar for one of our gatherings and come see what you can do to keep the Great Lakes' future bright!

For more information and to register to attend, call 608-251-9131 or visit:

www.greatlakegatherings.org

