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**Local Land Trust, Glacial Lakes Conservancy,  
Hosts Great Lake Gathering in Sheboygan**  
*Open Forum Will Focus on Protecting Region's Natural Treasures*

**Sheboygan, WI, September 22, 2008** – Sheboygan area residents will soon have an opportunity to meet with an economic development leader, environmental experts, Sheboygan Mayor Juan Perez, and others about preserving and improving the ecological, economic and cultural health of their neighborhoods and region. Glacial Lakes Conservancy and Gathering Waters Conservancy will co-host a **Great Lake Gathering on October 1<sup>st</sup> at John Michael Kohler Arts Center, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.** The Gathering is an open forum focusing on protecting natural treasures in northeast Wisconsin.

The Gathering will include opening remarks by Mayor Perez, a keynote address by Paul Linzmeyer, and a panel discussion with local leaders on ways to protect natural resources and enhance the quality of life in the region.

This is one of four **Great Lake Gatherings** being held this fall in Green Bay, Sheboygan, Mequon and Milwaukee. The Gatherings are designed to bring together area land trusts and economic development leaders, policy makers, business owners, landowners and residents to discuss conservation priorities and encourage new collaborative efforts to address those priorities.

"We are excited about the Gathering," says Shirley Griffin, President of Glacial Lakes Conservancy. "We're looking forward to expanding the public's understanding about the Conservancy, and bringing different individuals together to discuss the ways we can help protect environmentally sensitive lands for future generations."

Keynote speaker Paul Linzmeyer is New North's sustainability chair as well as cofounder of Ecolution and Innovation for Sustainable Operations, Inc. He will talk about 21<sup>st</sup> century sustainability and how land trusts benefit people, business profits, as well as our planet. According to Linzmeyer, "the land trust movement is an incredibly important part of sustaining the Great Lakes for future generations. And, for businesses, we have information to share about the trends and growth of green business practices, as well as guidance for businesses to adopt a 'triple bottom line' of economic success, social and environmental responsibility."

Panelists will include **Greg David**, Natural Step expert, Jefferson Co. Board Supervisor, and Vice President of Sustain Jefferson; **Jon Gumtow**, Natural Resources Consulting wetland scientist involved with the Sheboygan River Basin Partnership; and **Karl Klessig**, co-owner of Saxon Homestead Farm and Saxon Homestead Creamery and a Glacial Lakes Conservancy

board member. They will share stories of special places already protected and the creative partnerships needed for future conservation successes.

“Many people share a common love for the natural treasures in the Lake Michigan Basin. The Great Lake Gatherings will introduce participants to new partners who are working to protect our shared back yard,” says Michael Strigel, Executive Director of Gathering Waters Conservancy. “We will connect local land trusts with community leadership -- key businesses, elected officials, civic organizations and involved citizens.”

**The other Great Lake Gatherings being held this fall throughout Wisconsin’s Lake Michigan Basin are:**

- **Green Bay - already held on September 16, 2008, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., University of Wisconsin-Green Bay** Hosted by the *Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust and Baird Creek Preservation Foundation*
- **Mequon - October 8, 2008, 5:30 p.m. -- 8:30 p.m., Mequon Nature Preserve.** Hosted by the *Ozaukee Washington Land Trust*
- **Milwaukee - October 15, 2008, 8 a.m. -- 12 p.m., Milwaukee Art Museum.** Hosted by the *River Revitalization Foundation and the Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy*

The Gatherings are made possible through support from the Joyce Foundation, WI Department of Natural Resources, Argosy Foundation, Brico Fund, Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, Sheboygan River Basin Partnership and many others.

For more information and registration, please visit: [www.greatlakegatherings.org](http://www.greatlakegatherings.org). There is no charge to attend and the Gatherings are open to the public. All attendees 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.

**About Glacial Lakes Conservancy:**

Glacial Lakes Conservancy, Inc. is a private, non-profit land trust conservation organization working to permanently protect working, urban, and natural lands that contribute significantly to the ecological integrity, agricultural sustainability, scenic beauty and recreational enjoyment. The land trust offers land conservation options, organizational support, and technical guidance to landowners and organizations in Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Kewaunee, Calumet and Fond du Lac counties.

**About Gathering Waters Conservancy:**

Gathering Waters Conservancy is a statewide service center for Wisconsin’s land trust community and works to increase the amount of protected land in the state through private voluntary action. Gathering Waters strengthens Wisconsin’s private, non-profit land trusts through consulting, public education and policy advocacy.