

# 2026 Fall Fundraiser

## Live Auction Item List



**Morning Hike with the Early Birds** – Gather 8 of your bird-loving friends for an early morning hike with Rob Tyser in May at Plum Creek Conservation Area. (Donated by Rob Tyser)

**Pasture-raised Whole Processed Lamb** - Enjoy the savory goodness of lamb, pasture- raised here in the Driftless Area. (Donated by Keith and Lynne Valiquette)



**Birds and Brunch** – Spend a morning spotting and identifying the birds of the spring migration at a 100-acre Vernon County property, followed by a delicious brunch at the Koerschner's home. (Donated by Krysten Zummo and Fred and Lou Anne Koerschner)

**River Restoration Cruise** – Learn about the Mississippi River's history, ecology and one of the world's most extensive river restoration projects on a guided tour with Gretchen and Joe Pfeiffer while enjoying delicious snacks and beverages along the way. (Donated by Joe and Gretchen Pfeiffer)



**Get 'er Done – Full Day of Field Work** – Think of the work that could get done at your property if you had a full day with our strong, young interns next summer! (Donated by Conservancy staff and the summer intern crew)

**Let's Grow: Native Plants & Garden Tour** – This \$250 gift certificate to Driftless Area Natives offers more than beautiful native plants. You'll also enjoy a personal garden tour with Betty Kruck, who has spent more than 20 years growing and experimenting with plants native to La Crosse County and the Midwest.



**Carol and Bill's Farm to Fork Dinner** – The winning bid entitles six lucky people will enjoy a farm tour and entire farm-to-fork meal prepared from food grown at Carol and Bill's farm, including a decadent dessert. (Donated by Bill and Carol)

**"Fall at the Cabin" Quilt** – Celebrate autumn with this one-of-a kind 76" x 90" quilt featuring the classic log cabin style with more than 1,848 pieces of 100% cotton batik fabric, carefully pieced together by Bert Rand.



**Grassfed Beef: 30# bundle** – Raised with respect in a natural environment with rotational grazing, the cows at Willow Creek Ranch produce high-quality meat that is free from chemically enhanced grain or feed. (Donated by Rod Ofte)

**Fungi & Forests: A Guided Mushroom Hike** – Choose 10-15 of your fungi-loving friends and explore a La Crosse area nature preserve in September of 2027 as your guide helps you spot and identify the region's incredible mushroom diversity. (Donated by guide Sadie Hickey)



**Dessert of the Month** – Satisfy your sweet tooth with a homemade dessert each month for 12 months, homemade by Sue Dillenbeck, Shane Drey and Carol Abrahamzon. Your first dessert is available for pick-up at the fall fundraiser!



**Nature Nooks Getaway** - Relax to the sights and sounds of nature along the West Fork of the Kickapoo River, during your 2-night stay for two at Nature Nooks Retreat. (Donated by Nature Nooks Retreat)

**Scenic Mississippi River Flight** - Soar over the beautiful Driftless area in a Cessna 172 in a 45-minute flight for two to take in what makes this area so unique. (Donated by pilots Carol Kratz and Drake Hokanson)



**Let's Go on a Dragon Hunt!** Join dragonfly expert Dan Jackson with a group of 5 for a half or full-day outing to learn the basics of dragonfly and damselfly life cycles and identification. (Donated by Dan Jackson)

**Peregrine Falcon Chainsaw Carving in Cedar** – Carved with a chain saw from solid cedar, this 2' tall peregrine falcon in flight will be a conversation piece either inside or outside your home. (Donated by local artist Keith Kohnert)



#### **Black River Falls Glamping Dome Stay for Two**

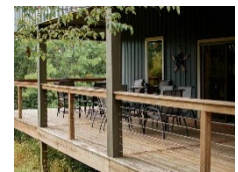
Escape for two nights to these unique glamping domes on a private bluff surrounded by nature and enjoy a soak in your private outdoor spa tub. (Donated by Dan Chumbley, owner of Black River Falls Glamping Domes)

**Quilted Sugar Creek Bluff Wall Hanging** – If you love the bluffs, you will adore this commemorative 16 x 13" wall hanging created in honor of the first bluffs protected by the Conservancy. It is the first in a series of commemorative projects to come. (Created and donated by Gretchen Pfeiffer)



**Private Tour of Kickapoo Caverns** – Experience the magic of the underground cave system at Kickapoo Caverns and learn all about the rare bats which call it home during the winter months on your private guided tour for 8 next summer. (Donated by Conservancy staff)

**Ten Mile Ranch Retreat** – Savor some time with family or friends with this 2-night stay for up to 12 guests at this 5,000+ sq ft cabin on 150 peaceful acres in Stoddard, WI, including a game room, deck, trails and basketball court. (Donated by Ten Mile Ranch Retreat)

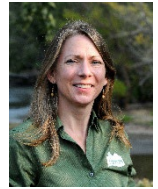


#### **Driftless Sweetness Basket**

Stay warm and cozy this winter while you delight in local sweetness. This artistically arranged basket is sure to satisfy your sweet tooth, or it would make a great gift at the holidays. Available to preview at the auction. (Made and donated by Jon and Ann Rigden)

**Only in the Driftless** – Spoil yourself while supporting small businesses found only in the Driftless Area with gift certificates and goods donated by local stores owners who believe in the importance of keeping conservation close to home.

**The Driftless Through Abbie's Eyes** – Bring up to four people to explore your favorite property for two hours with Abbie to learn as much as you can, and walk away with a personalized species list for your property.



**Bad Axe Winter Print**

Captured on the North Fork of the Bad Axe River and printed on a special translucent medium, this special print will capture the light, allowing new colors to emerge. (Donated by photographer Tom Rhorer)

**Fund the future**

This final auction item is your chance to give at whatever level you can. Think about what your dollars could do for conservation in the next year, and raise your hand to make restoration possible across our region.



When you give, you're investing in clean water, climate resilience, and healthy places for people and nature—right here at home. You're standing with families who've chosen to conserve their land for the benefit of all, and helping others who are ready to do the same. This work takes time, resources, and commitment—and your gift makes it possible. Every bid matters. Please bid what you can. Thank you from all of us at Mississippi Valley Conservancy!

*\* Bids for Fund the Future may be paid with Donor Advised Funds, retirement accounts, and gifts of Appreciated Stock. Just let Tiffany know your intention at check out! Thank you!*

*See you at the Fall Fundraiser  
on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>!*

**BUY TICKETS ASAP:** Online at [MississippiValleyConservancy.org/events](https://MississippiValleyConservancy.org/events)  
or by phone at (608) 784-3606