

# SILENT AUCTION

1. **“HIXON FOREST” FRAMED PHOTOGRAPH** – Stay connected to the outdoors with a beautiful framed photograph of a Hixon Forest trail in your home or office. Photograph taken and donated by Chris Kerbaugh.
2. **ST. BRIGID’S MEADOWS FARM TOUR & GIFT CERTIFICATE** – St. Brigid’s Meadows is a certified organic farm located near Coon Valley. The diversified farm’s products include 100% grass-fed beef, grass-finished lamb, pastured heritage pork, organic free-range eggs, pastured broilers, and an abundance of seasonal products. During your tour, you will receive a \$100 gift certificate for the farm’s products. Donated by St. Brigid’s Meadows Farm.
3. **LIVE TREES** – Choose swamp white oak, American elm, sycamore, silver maple, red maple and eastern cottonwood to grow your backyard habitat and cool the earth. These 2-year-old containerized trees have been grown from local seeds and are currently 2-4 feet in size. Available now or in spring. Grown and donated by naturalist John Sullivan.
4. **TREMPEALEAU TREASURES** - Learn what turned Trempealeau into a cultural mecca over a thousand years ago on your guided hike of Little Bluff. Then discover today’s Trempealeau treasures in the gift basket from local businesses (see table display), and enjoy 2 wine flights and a salami tray from Elmaro Vineyard. Donated by Friends of Little Bluff, Trempealeau Hotel, and Elmaro Vineyard, and other Trempealeau businesses.
5. **LEOPOLD BENCH** – Observe the wonders of nature from your own Leopold Bench! Designed by conservationist Aldo Leopold, the bench is an icon of simplicity and sustainability for your outdoor experience. Donated by Michael and Sylvia O’Brien.
6. **WINONA ARTS EXPERIENCE** – See the sea (and the world) through the eyes of master artists at the Minnesota Marine Art Museum (two free admission tickets). Then check out the Frozen Film Festival with two weekend passes (Feb 5-9, 2020).
7. **LANDSCAPING CONSULTATION** – Make plans to green up your property with a landscaping consultation from Sarah Washburn. She will recommend native plants and sustainable methods that will make your yard or property as appealing to pollinators as it is to you. Donated by Second Nature at Reads Creek.
8. **ON THE TOWN THEATER PACKAGE** –Enjoy a 2020 production by the La Crosse Community Theatre (two tickets) with dinner before or after at The Charmant with a \$75 gift certificate. Donated by the La Crosse Community Theatre and The Charmant Hotel.
9. **LAST COURSE SENSATIONS** – This collection of decadent sweet treats includes Butter Tarts, Nanaimo Bars, A Cookie Trio Assortment, Shortbread Cookies, Boeoy’s Bites Popcorn Snack Mix, and Chocolate Truffle Hot Chocolate – all in a handcrafted wooden tray/box. Two white ceramic mugs are filled with Cranberry Pistachio Biscotti and fluffy Gourmet Vanilla Bean Marshmallows. Donated by Linda Speziale, CDM, CFPP, Chef/Owner.
10. **HOLIDAY NIGHT OUT** – Your holiday spirits will rise when you and a loved one attend the La Crosse Symphony Orchestra’s “Holiday Romance” concert on December 20th, 2019. Enjoy dinner before or after with a \$100 gift certificate to Restore Public House. Donated by La Crosse Symphony Orchestra and Restore Public House.
11. **SILVER SCREEN NIGHT** – Escape with a friend through the silver screen with a Pump House Film Society screening followed by a light meal and beverage (2 tickets for your choice of screening between December 2019 and May 2020). Donated by the Pump House Regional Arts Center.
12. **ART OF THE TABLE** – Bring fine artisanship to your table or complete your holiday shopping with these locally crafted pieces: woven table runner by artist Kathy Aaker; ceramic coasters and vase by Jennifer Abrahamzon; cutting board by Jim Labuzzetta; handmade wooden bowl from artist Ken Critzman. Donated by the artists.

13. **DRIFTLESS BREWS & SPIRITS** – Sample your way through the Driftless Area with these local brews and spirits: Turtle Stack Brewery (free growler fill); La Crosse Distilling (bottle of High Rye Light Whiskey, tasting and distillery tour for 4); Hillsboro Brewing Company Brew Pub (\$20 gift certificate); a tour of City Brewery plus a half barrel of Randy Hughes' Octoberfest beer. Donated by the breweries and the distillery.
14. **GOT ORGANIC VALLEY?** – One year's worth\* of certified organic dairy products from the farm-owners at Organic Valley! Organic Valley milk, cheese, eggs, and butter are delicious choices, all produced without the use of synthetic pesticides, hormones and antibiotics. \*52 coupons, each valid for one Organic Valley item up to a \$13 value. Void on Class 1 Dairy / Fluid Milk in CO.
15. **LA CROSSE WATERFRONT VISIT** - Treat yourself or out-of-town guests to a one-night stay for two and breakfast for two at the Radisson Hotel La Crosse (breakfast included). Package includes a basket of local goodies provided by the La Crosse Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.
16. **DRIFTLESS SWEETNESS** – Delight in local sweetness with this artistically arranged basket containing 5 pints of home-harvested and crafted maple syrup, pancake mix, nature napkins, and notecards. Donated by Jon and Ann Rigden.
17. **SUMMER HOUSE FOR BATS** – Your bats will feel safe and comfortable in their sparsely furnished, hand-crafted home. Made and donated by Maggie Jones and David Linton.
18. **LANESBORO DATE NIGHT** – Enjoy an evening out with two tickets to a stage production by the Commonweal Theatre Company in the charming town of Lanesboro, in southeastern Minnesota!. Donated by the Commonweal Theatre Company.
19. **YOGA KIT** – Take your practice home with a beautiful bolster, a block, a belt, and a copy of *Yoga in Action: Preliminary Course*. Donated by Pam Starcher of The Yoga Place.

## LIVE AUCTION

1. **LIVE HARP ENSEMBLE** – Enjoy 1-2 hours of live music at your next event provided by seven or more harpists of the Heart Strings Harp Circle. Weddings excluded. Donated by Allan Beatty and the harpists of Heart Strings Harp Circle.
2. **RIVER RESTORATION CRUISE** – Join Gretchen Benjamin and Joe Pfeifer on a tour of one of the world's most extensive large river restoration projects (near Stoddard and Brownsville). Gretchen grew up on the banks of the Mississippi River and has spent her career working to restore it. She'll share the river's history, ecology, and full potential. If conditions are right, you can get off the boat and pollywog for native mussels. The entire trip is 3 hours (longer if desired). Delicious foods and beverages will be served, and comforts necessary for the journey will be provided.
3. **GRASSFED WISCONSIN BEEF** – Bring home 25# of all-natural, free-range, farm-direct, grass-fed Angus beef from Willow Creek Ranch. The mixed pack of frozen beef is here for you to take home tonight. Donated by Rod Ofte.
4. **LODGING IN TUSCON** – Escape the polar vortex and relax in easy-going Tucson, Arizona. Enjoy the southwestern sights, sounds, hikes, and cuisine with a 7-night stay in your own one-bedroom condo near Reid Park (sleeps up to 4 with 1 queen bed and 1 futon couch). Scheduling is subject to availability. *Book by Dec 15 if you plan to visit before April!* These dates are unavailable: Dec 9-14, 2019; Dec 25, 2019-Jan 2; Jan 15-23; Jan 24-Feb 13; Feb 28-Mar 8, 2020. Offer valid through November 2020. Donated by Leslie Kolkmeier.
5. **WHOLE PROCESSED LAMB** – If a juicy leg of lamb or the taste of tender chops is what makes your mouth water, this is the way to fill your freezer. Enjoy the savory goodness of lamb raised locally by donors, Keith and Lynne Valiquette.
6. **FLYING HIGH** – Soar over the beautiful Driftless area in a Cessna 172 piloted by Carol or Drake. Take in the spring greening, the fall colors, or see what your home looks like from above. You get two window seats for the 45-minute flight. Donated by Carol Kratz and Drake Hokanson.

- 7. NATURE NOOKS RETREAT ON THE WEST FORK** – Relax to the sights and sounds of nature along the West Fork of the Kickapoo River, during your two-night stay for two\* at Nature Nooks Retreat. Enjoy Class 1 trout fishing or ask Tom for a tour of all the conservation projects on this protected land. Stock up at the Viroqua Food Co-op with a \$25 gift certificate. Watch the morning fog lift with coffee from Kickapoo Coffee Roasters. \*Extra guests welcome for an additional charge. Donated by Tom Lukens and Pam Saunders, Viroqua Food Co-op, and Kickapoo Coffee Roasters.
- 8. CAROL AND BILL'S FARM TO FORK DINNER** – Start with a meet & greet with the critters, stroll through the orchard & gardens, Carol will cook a farm to fork dinner complete with dessert. Followed by a campfire, s'mores, and stories by Bill. Donated by farmers Carol & Bill Abrahamzon. For 6 people.
- 9. LA CROSSE LUXE WEEKEND PACKAGE** – Fit for a baron or baroness, this luxury La Crosse weekend package includes a one-night stay for two with a bottle of wine at the stately Castle La Crosse B&B plus a \$100 gift certificate from the FreightHouse Restaurant. Enjoy goodies or pack a lunch at the nearby People's Food Co-op (\$25 gift certificate). Treat yourself or give as a gift to out-of-town guests! Donated by the proprietors.
- 10. PRIVATE TOUR OF KICKAPOO CAVERNS** – Bring your group of 8 to a guided tour of the recently acquired and now protected Kickapoo Caverns – seasonal home of three rare bat species, oak savannah, and many wild-flowers. Conservancy staff will guide the tour and provide light refreshments. (June 15-August 15, 2020)
- 11. TWO-WEEK ADVENTURE IN ITALY** – Your two-week base camp for touring Italy is just outside of Vicenza in the home of a Bluffland Guardian! Easy access to public transportation puts Venice, Florence, Milan, and much of central Europe at your doorstep. Your host, Kurt Brownell, will provide airport transportation, guide service on weekends (optional), and touring tips to make your stay worry-free. Kurt will generously match the winning bid up to \$2,000 with a gift to the Conservancy!
- 12. RAPTOR RESEARCH EXPERIENCE** – Join a team from the Raptor Resource Project for a fall day of migrating hawk research near Decorah, Iowa! This day of trapping, banding, and data collection is a once in a lifetime opportunity for your group of 4 to get up close to a variety of birds of prey and be a part of raptor conservation efforts. Sept. 15-Nov. 15, 2019 or 2020. Donated by the Raptor Resource Project.
- 13. DRIFTLESS SWEETNESS** – Delight in local sweetness with this artistically arranged basket of 5 pints of cottage-crafted maple syrup, pancake mix, nature napkins, and notecards donated by Jon and Ann Rigden.
- 14. BORDELLO HISTORY DINNER** – Inspired by the famous Bordello Cookbook (celebrating the owners of a magnificent Chicago bordello in 1900-1911), dinner will be served at Castle La Crosse in grand style. Infamous local Madam Kelly Kreig-Sigman will share stories of La Crosse's bordello history before dinner and possibly more scandalous stories while after-dinner drinks are served. Dinner for up to 8 guests will be served with local wines and other tasty treats. Donated by Kelly Kreig-Sigman and the owners of Castle La Crosse.
- 15. PROTHONOTARY WARBLER BIRD TRIP** – You and a guest will have the opportunity to ride with Tim Collins in his flat boat to check nesting boxes for adult and young Prothonotary Warblers, the first or second week of June 2020.
- 16. FISHING ON THE FLY** – Bring a friend and learn the language of trout on a half-day of fly fishing with tournament champion and instructor, Brian Ramsey. Brian provides all gear except waders. Try out your brand new 6'6" graphite and titanium fly fishing rod donated by Tom Clafin and gear up with a \$50 gift certificate from Driftless Angler. Enjoy a bite to eat after a day of fishing with a \$20 gift certificate from Schmidt's.
- 17. MADELINE ISLAND GETAWAY** – Escape to Lake Superior's Madeline Island for a 3-night stay at Mosswood, a Scandinavian-inspired A-frame cottage. It sleeps 4-6 and has its own private stretch of shoreline. Package includes two 1-day bike rentals from Howl Adventures in Bayfield (MBX or E-bikes), two Madeline Island Museum tickets, a free round-trip ferry pass (\$75), a guided conservancy hike, and a \$10 gift certificate for Kickapoo Coffee's Bay-

field Cafe. Frugal not fancy, the generous owners of Mosswood ask guests to leave no trace. Donated by Sonya Newenhouse and Cecil Wright, Howl Adventures, Madeline Island Museum, Madeline Island Ferry Line, Kickapoo Coffee Roasters, Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve. Available mid-September 2020 through mid-May 2021.

18. **GET ER DONE** – Sit back and sip your ice-tea while Levi and his intern crew clear your invasives, plant your trees, or tackle whatever restoration work you need done on your land. This full day of fieldwork is donated by Conservancy staff.
19. **VIROQUA WEEKEND GETAWAY** – Head for the organic epicenter with this Viroqua weekend package: Friday taco night at Rooted Spoon Kitchen for delicious craft cocktails with farm-to-table tacos (\$50 gift certificate); a two-night stay at the retro-chic 217 on Main (Blue Door apt. sleeps 4); a \$100 gift certificate for tickets to the Historic Temple Theater; a private tour of Vernon Vineyards with complimentary tastings for two, a bottle of wine, and two souvenir glasses. Donated by Rooted Spoon Kitchen, 217 on Main, Historic Temple Theater, and Vernon Vineyards.
20. **YEAR OF THE PIE** – You'll have your pie and then some when you win a pie per month (for 12 months) homemade and delivered to the Conservancy office for you to pick up. Conservancy Board Members, Allan Beatty, Gretchen Benjamin, and Sue Dillenbeck are the pastry chefs, and we can attest to their talents in the kitchen!
21. **GUIDED BOUNDARY WATERS TRIP** – Your group of up to 6 people will experience the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCA) on a guided canoe trip with board member, Dr. Tim Johnson. Tim will tailor your 3-5 day trip according to your group's abilities and desired experience. Package includes guide service, BWCA permits, food, cookware, packs, tarps, some canoes. You bring personal items, rain gear, tents, sleeping bags and pads, additional canoes, paddles, and pfd's (can be rented from outfitter). Scheduling of this 2020 trip is subject to Tim's availability. Donated by Tim Johnson.
22. **DRAGONFLY HIKE** – Naturalist Dan Jackson will introduce you, and up to six guests, to the insect order Odonata – damselflies and dragonflies – on your own guided field trip. Dan provides a brief discussion of the biology, life cycle, and identification of Odonata and a chance to participate in a survey of these beneficial insects. This weather-dependent event will be scheduled on a weekend day in June or July, 2020, based on Dan's availability. The field trip can be either a basic introduction or a more advanced survey of multiple habitats.
23. **FRAMED PHOTO BY TOM RHORER** – "Monarch Fantasy" is a 24" x 17" framed composite photograph from Tom's latest series of images from Holland Sand Prairie. Few have done as much to capture the beauty of our conserved lands as has Tom. He prints his own work, using archival quality inks and papers. Tom is a member of Viva Gallery artist's cooperative. Donated by Tom Rhorer Photography.
24. **FUND THE FUTURE** – Tonight we gather to celebrate all you've done this past year to protect land from the threat of development. Unfortunately, development isn't the only threat to our land and water these days. Weather and rising temperatures are also making a huge impact. The time has come for us to step up with bold new initiatives that protect our land and water and cut carbon pollution by using more clean energy and less dirty energy. Along with new climate initiatives, we also have a long list of landowners who need help in protecting their land. All of this takes resources, time, and money. Tonight, you can bolster the resilience of the beautiful bluffs, farms, prairies, wetlands, and streams so they'll be here in the future for wildlife and for our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Tonight, you can fund hope and change! Please join our generous donors George and Sharon Kerckhove and Ron and Jane Rada who've already kick-started tonight's Fund for a Resilient Future with \$2,000! Please dig deep and give all you can to fund the future of land protection in the Driftless Area. Last year you donated \$28,000 to fund the future. This year our goal is \$30,000, and we're confident together we'll reach that goal! You have our humble gratitude. Thank you.