



Rural Legacy

A Quarterly Newsletter of Women, Land, & Legacy
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New Women, Land, & Legacy State Coordinator

The Women, Food and Ag Network welcomes Wren Almitra to its staff as the new Women, Land and Legacy State Coordinator. Wren has worked with the Johnson County Women, Land and Legacy team for two years, where she found that the strength of the program was deeply connected to the strength, passion, eagerness, and commitment of women landowners and farmers. She is thrilled and honored to be a part of Women, Food and Ag Network and the Women, Land and Legacy program. Stay tuned to the next quarterly newsletter for more about Wren and her work statewide.

This position is made possible through support from the Iowa Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture.



SILT Birthday Celebration

The Sustainable Iowa Land Trust is celebrating its first birthday with dinner and a show by Iowa folk singer Dave Moore Thursday, November 12, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm at the Hotel Pattee in Perry, IA. Tickets are available at silt.org - Deadline is November 5th!

SILT, newly-launched in January, already owns its first farm in Honey Creek IA with a second being donated by a woman landowner in Corydon later this year. More than 30 landowners, mostly elderly women or couples from around Iowa, have contacted SILT to discuss donating their land to the group which promises to permanently protect it while placing next gen farmers on the ground to grow fruits, vegetables and small livestock in nature-friendly ways. SILT standards require farmers on SILT land to transition to certified organic, certified naturally grown, food alliance certified and/or animal welfare approved production.

More information at silt.org.

Upcoming Events

- Nov 6th WFAN 2015 Annual Conference
- Nov 7th WFAN 2015 Annual Conference
- Nov 12th SILT's First Birthday Celebration, Perry
- Nov 20th West Burlington Ethanol Plant Tour

View More Info & Events At

www.womenlandandlegacy.org/events-calendar
www.facebook.com/womenlandandlegacy/events



Women, Land, and Legacy in Pocahontas and Buena Vista Counties

Pocahontas and Buena Vista Counties WLL sponsored their first event, the Listening Session, on Thursday, June 11, 2015 at Pocahontas, IA. The Local Team scheduled for there to be an afternoon Listening Session and Evening Listening Session, so they could focus on women who not only help manage the farm, but work outside of the home full-time.

The Pocahontas and Buena Vista Local Team had great response from the ones who attended the Listening Session. It led them to plan the first Learning Session, which was held on August 12, 2015 in Laurens, IA. The Learning Session focused on Farm Leases. A panel discussion was arranged with three different guest speakers who discussed the different information on farm leases. The Learning Session was attended by 9 women who are involved in agricultural or natural resources from one of the two counties.

Pocahontas and Buena Vista will be held on Thursday, November 19 at 10:30 am with registration beginning at 10 am at the Storm Lake United Methodist Church (211 E 3rd St.). There will be a free lasagna dinner served sponsored by Farm Bureau. To register, contact the Buena Vista County NRCS Office at (712) 732-3096 extension 3.



WLL in Worth & Winnebago Counties

The Worth and Winnebago County Women Land and Legacy Team recently hosted a Tree Care/Windbreak and Lawn Beautification meeting at the Worth County Fairgrounds in Northwood, Iowa with more than 150 people participating.

Featured speaker pictured above was Iowa State University Extension Master Gardener, Rick Pleggenkuhle speaking to the crowd about proper tree planting, pruning, disease prevention and tree insect pest management.

FarmHer Brings Women in Agriculture into Focus

submitted by Tama County WLL

The evaluations said it all. When asked what she valued most about the experience, one participant responded, "I really felt connected, like she's showing photos of us, of me."

A crowd of thirty people was captivated by Marji Guyler-Alaniz at Tama County WLL's September 2nd learning session, sharing photos of female farmers and what is now her passion-- FarmHer. Setting out to change the perception of women in agriculture, Marji has created FarmHer images with 90 women so far, sharing their agricultural stories through her photography.

While sharing these images, Marji noted many of her photos don't show the face of her subject, concentrating rather on what the woman is doing. Large group conversation surrounding this focused on how the subject's hands could be those of any of us who were in the room, doing tasks that many of us do every day.

This prompted another participant to share that she learned "a new way of being involved in the agriculture world and promote it in a new light." Several evaluations requested future learning sessions on how to share our own agricultural stories with our communities' non-farming sectors.

Attendees were also fascinated in and inspired by Marji's own story of her lifelong love of photography, which came in handy after "jumping off the cliff" and quitting a high-paying job in 2013 without a plan.

"Everyone thought I was completely insane," she said. And we're so glad of it!



Rural Legacy is a quarterly publication of **Women, Land, & Legacy**. Our vision is to help agricultural women come together to converse, listen, & become empowered to act on their landscape & in their community.

We invite newsletter suggestions & contributions from participants & readers.

The newsletter is **published** each February, May, August, & November & may be viewed at www.womenlandandlegacy.org.

Email submissions to stateteam@womenlandandlegacy.org, no later than the 15th of the prior month.

Visit us on our **Facebook** page www.facebook.com/womenlandandlegacy.

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