

# PRESERVING SPECIAL PLACES IN WISCONSIN

PROTECTING THE OUTDOORS FROM HUMAN DEGRADATION

February 23 | 10:15am | Borgwardt Hall

“Preserving Special Places in Wisconsin” is a growing challenge as human activities degrade our natural environment and landscape. Mary Jean Huston, the longtime Director of the Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin, will help us understand the role of public and private support in protecting the outdoors from human degradation. She will explain how conservation-funding programs – especially the State of Wisconsin-sponsored Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program – protect such places. In particular she will describe the history of increasing and decreasing support of that program, its current status, and how it and other Wisconsin efforts compare with and also support similar efforts in other places. The important role of land trusts will also be highlighted.



**Mary Jean Huston**, State Director, Emerita, The Nature Conservancy’s Wisconsin chapter has been employed by the Nature Conservancy in increasingly responsible positions across several states and the Midwest Regional Office until her retirement in November 2019.

As Wisconsin Nature Conservancy Director, Huston was responsible for the overall direction and management of the program. Included among her most significant accomplishments in that role are completing the 64,000-acre Wild Rivers Legacy Forest working forest easement; leading a conservation campaign that raised \$31.7 million in four years; maintaining a strong statewide Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program (public funding for land protection); bringing federal funds to Wisconsin for conservation priorities; and launching the North America Regional Initiative of the global Alliance for Water Stewardship.



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