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**“UPSTREAM/DOWNSTREAM” GALA TO SUPPORT
LAND AND WATER STEWARDSHIP**

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**Valley Stewardship Network Event to Offer “Best of the Kickapoo” Food, Music,
Silent Auction, and Entertainment on October 18 in Gays Mills**

VIROQUA, WI – September 9, 2013 – Recognizing that protection of natural resources requires communication and collaboration from everyone in the Kickapoo area, Valley Stewardship Network (VSN) announced its public invitation to *Upstream/Downstream – A local harvest celebration for land and water stewardship*. The event is scheduled for Friday, October 18th at the new Gays Mills Community Center, with lighting from the harvest moon on sparkling Kickapoo waters. With Organic Valley as lead sponsor of the event, all proceeds will go to support the programs and operations of Valley Stewardship Network.

Upstream/Downstream event organizers will offer the “Best of the Kickapoo” in food, drink, entertainment, and silent auction goods, as well as a chance for everyone to learn more about the work of Valley Stewardship Network. Special guest Tim Jacobson, Executive Producer of the soon to be released documentary, “Mysteries of the Driftless,” will share insights about how to energize a new generation of land and water stewards. In the new Kickapoo Culinary Center, Chef Monique Hooker will lead the preparation of cuisine that represents the concepts of land and water stewardship – all from local and sustainably produced ingredients. The farm-to-bar beverages offered will be from local producers, including beer, wine, cider, soft drinks, and “swampwater” cocktails from a local mixologist. The silent auction will be open from 6 – 8 PM, offering fine art, crafts, services, and gifts donated by talented and generous supporters of VSN. All of this will be harmonized with music from the Fair Ridge Trio and special harvest celebration performances by other local talents to be announced.



Tickets for the Upstream/Downstream event on Friday, October 18, can be purchased until October 7 at brownpapertickets.com or at the both the Viroqua Food Co-op and the Kickapoo Exchange Co-op. Ticket price is \$50 plus optional cash bar and silent auction.

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Valley Stewardship Network is a nonprofit organization that has championed stewardship of the land and waters in the Kickapoo area since it's formation in the late 1990's. VSN staff and volunteers measure, communicate, and act to protect the fragile nature of the Kickapoo and all who touch it, at a time when man's impact on the environment is increasing. Best known for its water quality monitoring and education programs, the outreach and education programs of VSN also include the Kickapoo Grazing Initiative (KGI) that offers information and education about the benefits of managed grazing as a sustainable option for landowners. Partners in the KGI program include Trout Unlimited, Vernon County Land & Water Conservation, UW Extension-Crawford County, with funding from the Wallace Foundation. VSN also supports many community activities that promote sustainable agriculture and food and water education because of their direct relationship to soil and water conservation. Learn more at www.kickapoovsn.org