

OUR COMMON GROUND

HEART OF
THE LAKES



PLACES CREATE STORIES



FRIDAY: MAY 11, 2018
BLANDFORD NATURE CENTER

9:00 AM – 4:30 PM
GRAND RAPIDS, MI

Our Common Ground: A Gathering of Michigan's Nature Centers and Land Conservancies

The Association of Nature Center Administrators in partnership with Heart of the Lakes invite you to join us on May 11, 2018 in Grand Rapids at the Blandford Nature Center. Our Common Ground will showcase how Michigan's nature centers and land conservancies are creating a lasting conservation legacy. We'll highlight examples of programming and partnerships that invite all people to benefit from and learn about the outdoors.

Join us to explore creative approaches for connecting youth to the outdoors, examples of innovative partnerships, state level planning efforts, and more! We all have a stake in learning from each other and addressing challenges cooperatively where possible.

This gathering is designed for the board, staff, and volunteers from Michigan's nature center, land conservancies, and other organizations around themes of commonality and collaboration.

Time	Agenda Item
9:00 – 10:00 am	Registration
10:00 – 10:15 am	Welcome & Introductions
10:15 – 12:00 pm	Highlands Tour & Discussion of Partnerships Facilitated by Land Conservancy of West Michigan and Blandford Nature Center
12:15 – 1:00 pm	Lunch and Abby Mahan Gartland Award
1:10 - 2:00 pm	Breakout Session #1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Nature for All b. Partnerships 101 c. MI Wildlife Action Plan Update
2:00 – 2:10 pm	Break
2:10 – 3:00 pm	Breakout Session #2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Work and Life: Where’s the Balance? b. Nature Education Programs in the 21st Century c. MI Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
3:00 – 3:10 pm	Break
3:10 – 4:00 pm	Group Discussion: Our Common Ground No doubt there’s overlap and valuable collaboration potential among Michigan’s nature centers and land trusts. But, when and where do we most efficiently share knowledge, resources, membership, and programs?
4:00 – 4:30 pm	Takeaways & Closing
4:45 – ? pm	Happy Hour!