Distributed by UW News Service, July 7, 2025

Link to original story: <https://www.uwlax.edu/news/posts/a-love-of-the-land/>

**A love of the land**

### **John Kelly’s volunteer work serves Driftless Region, enriches classroom learning**

Image Captions

*1* *John Kelly, associate professor of geography and environmental science, volunteers as a conservation easement monitor with the Mississippi Valley Conservancy. His work not only helps protect the Driftless Region but also enriches his students’ education — bringing lessons to life far beyond the classroom. (Photo by Jen Towner, UWL University Marketing & Communications)*

*2  
Kelly visits five to seven sites a year, hiking the property and taking GPS-located photos. (Photo by Jen Towner, UWL University Marketing & Communications)*

*3  
Each semester, Kelly weaves lessons from his volunteer work into his teaching, illustrating how the Driftless Region is both ecologically unique and shaped by global challenges such as habitat loss and water quality. (Photo by Jen Towner, UWL University Marketing & Communications)*