

Farming in Karst Country: Soil Health, Caves & Underground Streams

How No-till, Cover Crops & Intensive Rotational Grazing can Improve Soil Health & Groundwater



Location: Niagara Cave

29842 Co. Hwy. 30 Harmony, MN

Thurs. July 18th 3:30-7:00

Cost Includes Cave Tour & Dinner:

Adult \$15, Teen \$10, Children \$8

RSVP by July 16th to Shona Snater by emailing ssnater@landstewardshipproject.org or call 507-523-3366. SPACE IS LIMITED



Join the Land Stewardship Project for an evening of soil health presentations and a cave tour to explore the intersection of agriculture, water movement and Karst geology. Local farmers, Martin Larsen and Olaf Haugen, will share their insights on how practices like no-till, cover cropping and intensive, rotational grazing can improve the soil and underground streams. The Bishop family has stewarded the cave system since 1995, hosting hundreds of thousands of visitors in that time, and they will share their knowledge of underground water movement, water quality and the changes they have seen in the cave over the past 25 years, especially with extreme weather events. A grilled, Pettit's beef, burger dinner will be served after the cave tour.

This is a family-friendly event, however professional child care will not be available.

Please bring a jacket and good walking shoes for the wet cave floor.

*Please note that this will be a physically active field day with a topside walking tour and a cave tour that includes 550 stairsteps and a mile walk in a humid environment. The cave tour is not recommended for people with heart or respiratory conditions.

“What is Karst?”

Karst geology is formed when water and carbon dioxide, found in the atmosphere and soil, chemically react to create slightly acidified water which then dissolves the limestone bedrock and forms underground waterways, natural springs, and caves. With enough time and exposure to rain, snow and freeze/thaw cycles, the bedrock eventually gives way and forms a sinkhole characteristic of Karst geology.

Fillmore county has more than 10,000 sinkholes, the most in the state!



Farmer Presenters:

Martin Larsen is a fifth generation farmer using no-till to raise conventional corn, soybeans and cover crops near Byron, MN. Martin also works for the Olmsted County Soil and Water Conservation District, and he is the President of the Minnesota Caving Club.

Olaf Haugen rotationally grazes dairy cows on sloping hills with Karst features near Canton, MN. To improve the integrity of the land, soil and water, Olaf builds soil with his farming practices and grazing cows.



**LAND
STEWARDSHIP
PROJECT**

*LSP Soil Health & Grazing Field Days,
July 13th & 18th*

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