



Michigan Wetlands
ASSOCIATION

Michigan Wetlands Association **Conference 2017**

**Innovations in Wetland
Protection and Management**

September 27 – 29, 2017

Treetops Resort • Gaylord, Michigan

The conference will take place at the Treetops Resort, which is located five miles east of Gaylord amidst abundant and varied scenic and recreational opportunities.





[Click Here ►](#)

for Full Conference Agenda

Opening Plenary Keynote Speakers

Groundwater, Wetlands, and Geology: The invisible links – **Kenneth Bradbury**,
Director and State Geologist, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey

Policy Trends at EPA – **W. Michael McDavit**, Branch Chief, Program Development and
Jurisdiction Branch, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency

The Past, Present & Future of WOTUS: Maintaining or Draining the Swamps? –
Stephen Samuels, Department of Justice (Retired)

Closing Plenary Speakers – the Future of Wetland Science, Protection and Conservation

The Future of Conservation in Michigan – **Bob Wilson**, Michigan Trails and Greenways

Emerging Issues in Wetland Science – **Don Uzarski**, Central Michigan University

The Future of Wetland Protection and Stewardship in Michigan – **Patrick Doran**,
The Nature Conservancy

Concurrent Sessions

- **Current Topics in Wetland Science** – monitoring, climate change adaptation, vernal pool research, groundwater and wetlands, green infrastructure, wetland mapping, and more
- **Protecting Michigan's Wetlands, Lakes, and Streams (Sponsored by the MDEQ)** – updates on Michigan's wetlands and stream regulatory programs, information and updates from federal agencies, rare species, local protection, and more
- **Wetlands Restoration and Stewardship** – wild rice protection and stewardship, invasive species, lake shoreline and shallows, restoring native plant communities, BMPs, case studies, and more

Networking and Socializing

- Gathering at Treetops with MWA evening of September 26 (on your own). Please RSVP to laura@steppesolutions.com.
- Reception at the Treetops on September 27 (included with registration)
“Dine-around” at one of Gaylord's local hotspots (on your own). Sign up at registration desk at conference.



Tuesday Workshops

Protection and Restoration of Wild Rice

This workshop will focus on the protection and restoration of Wild Rice in Michigan. We will spend the afternoon learning about the different varieties of wild rice, or “Manoomin,” found in Michigan, habitat and growing conditions, range, Tribal significance, and restoration efforts. After these presentations we will head outside for “Wild Rice Camp” where we will participate in a live demonstration of processing harvested wild rice in the traditional tribal methods. It will be interactive, engaging, and outside!

Siting Wetland Mitigation and Restoration in a Watershed Context

This workshop will focus on assessing the functions and values of impacted wetlands using the Landscape Level Wetland Functional Assessment (LLWFA) approach and determining which restoration and mitigation sites will likely replace those functions. Participants will work in a small group setting to analyze impacts to wetlands, screen potential mitigation sites, and make decisions on likely outcomes of restoration projects. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has been working since 2006 on refining and expanding the use of the LLWFA across much of the state. This approach addresses both a current (2005) wetland inventory and a Pre-European Settlement inventory, to approximate change over time. Twenty watersheds have been through the complete LLWFA process, and another ten watersheds are in some phase of completion. In, 2008 the U.S. Environmental Project Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) adopted the Federal Mitigation Rule which placed an emphasis on planning wetland mitigation and restoration projects using the watershed approach. This workshop will cover using MDEQ’s LLWFA, watershed plans and other information to plan wetland restoration and mitigation projects in the watershed context.

Management of Invasive Wetland Species

When invasive species take hold, they can cause serious environmental damage to wetland ecosystems and can be very difficult to manage. This workshop will focus on management of invasive wetland species and will include case studies on early detection and rapid response, monitoring and surveying for invasive species, cooperative invasive species management, and more.



Friday Field Trips

Pigeon River Country Tour

Tour the Pigeon River Country (PRC) with Michigan Department of Natural Resources Staff, including:

- Song of the Morning - Visit the site of the dam removal on the Pigeon River and hear the story of its removal. This privately owned dam had failed 3 times in the last century, each time causing a catastrophic loss of fish. Now after a lawsuit and agreement by the parties, the dam has been removed, which has restored the Pigeon River to its natural free flowing state.
- PRC State Forest Headquarters and Discovery Center - We will visit the building complex built by the CCC in 1935, which houses the offices and visitor center. There we will learn a little of the history of the PRC and its significance in the history of conservation in Michigan. We will also tour the PRC Discovery Center, which is still under development, and learn about the latest initiative to tell the story of the PRC and introduce a new generation of outdoor enthusiasts to the "Big Wild".
- Sinkhole Lakes - We will venture out past the Pigeon River to the scenic sinkhole lakes to learn about their unique geology and the challenges of managing these small gems.
- After wrapping up at the PRC, we can head into the thriving town of Gaylord and visit Snowbelt Brewery on our way out of town for a cold beverage.

Bogs and Brew

Come out and take a walk through a diverse northern Michigan forest that is filled with wildlife, multiple forest types and has diverse range of wetlands, at Johannesburg Lewiston Schools. The walk will start off stopping by a bog full of birds and wetland plants, then wander off into an aspen clear cut and then into an old growth maple forest with vernal pools and depressional wetlands. The walk will finish up by traveling through a thick black spruce wetland forest and ends with an ice cold brew only blocks away. Attendees will meet at entrance of conference building before heading over to site to go over site and parking details.

Trout Fishing

MWA will offer a Trout Fishing Guide based clinic focused on a variety of topics from basic casting, to tactics, to insights on area trout fishing opportunities. The clinic will be organized to include something for all skill levels. After the clinic, the guide will provide a printout detailing several good areas to fish so you can try out your new found skills. Participants are encourage to bring their own gear, but for the clinic, the guide can provide equipment for up to 15 individuals. For those willing to bid, the silent auction will include a ½ day (after the clinic) guided fishing trip with the Guide and MWA Board Member Kurt Brauer. Individuals are responsible for having proper fishing licenses and following all fishing regulations.



Other Activities

Exhibits

The Exhibit Area will be open during breaks, meals, and the Wednesday evening reception. Covered tables may be reserved for Wednesday through Friday by nonprofit or government agencies. Reduced fees are available for nonprofit organizations.

Silent Auction

A fund raiser to support MWA, and an opportunity to pick up unique wetland related items. We are still accepting items for the silent auction. Would you like to donate a gift basket, gift membership or other wetland related item to the silent auction? Please contact Matt Carmer at mcarmer@ectinc.com

Venue

Reserve Lodging

Reserve your room by calling (855) 261-8764 and indicate that you are with the MWA Conference to get the conference price.

[Click Here ▶](#) to Register

Registration

Registration ends September 18.

- Members: \$295
- Government/Non-profit \$250
- Students: \$175

Registration fees include:

- All conference presentations and materials
- Continental Breakfast, coffee and snacks on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
- Lunch on Wednesday and Thursday
- Welcome Reception on Wednesday at Treetops

Registration optional add-ons

- Wednesday through Friday Exhibitor – For-Profit - \$100
- Wednesday through Friday Exhibitor – Nonprofit - \$40
- Tuesday Workshops
 - Management of Invasive Wetland Species \$35
 - Siting Wetland Mitigation and Restoration in a Watershed Context \$35
 - Protection and Restoration of Wild Rice \$35
- Friday Box lunch - \$15
- Friday Field Trips
 - Pigeon River Country Tour \$35
 - Bogs and Brew \$35
 - Trout Fishing \$25

Sponsorship

We invite your organization to consider supporting the Michigan Wetlands Association Conference 2017. Sponsor benefits include conference registration, recognition in printed materials and on the website, and exhibit space. Sponsorships are available at 4 levels. To become a sponsor or for additional information, please contact Todd Losee, at mwapresident@miwetlands.org.

\$5,000 - \$9,999: Eastern Massasauga

- Name/logo/link on conference Web site
- ½ -page ad in program agenda
- Listing in the program agenda
- Three full conference registrations w/sponsorship ID badges
- 1 exhibit space
- Logo on conference signage

\$2,500 - \$4,999: Marbled Salamander

- Name/logo/link on conference Web site
- ¼ -page ad in program agenda
- Listing in the program agenda
- Two full conference registrations w/sponsorship ID badges
- 1 exhibit space
- Organization name on conference signage

\$1,000 - \$2,499: Hine's Emerald Dragonfly

- Name/logo/link on conference Web site
- Listing in the program agenda
- One full conference registration w/sponsorship ID badge
- 1 exhibit space
- Organization name on conference signage

\$500 - \$999: Blanchard's cricket frog

- Name/logo/link on conference Web site
- Listing in the program agenda
- One full conference registration w/sponsorship ID badge
- Organization name on conference signage

Logo Guidelines

The preferred format is a vector EPS file. You may also send a TIF or JPG file that's at least 300 DPI at 8" wide (2400 px.) for use on signage

Ad Guidelines

All ads must be submitted digitally via email to cvpollman@gmail.com

High resolution PDF files are preferred. High resolution Photoshop files (TIF, EPS, JPG) and vector EPS files are also accepted

Sizes

Half Page Horizontal: 7.5"w x 4.875"h

Quarter Page: 3.625"w x 4.875"h





Agenda-at-a-glance

Tuesday, September 26

Workshops (added fee)
Exhibitor set-up
Wild Rice Camp Demonstration
Informal Social Gathering (at the Sports Bar at Treetops - join us for an on your own dinner and drinks)

Wednesday, September 27

Arrival and Registration
Opening Plenary
Lunch
Afternoon Concurrent sessions
Reception

Thursday, September 28

MWA Business Meeting
Morning and afternoon concurrent sessions
Lunch
Dinner "dine-around" at one of Gaylord's local hotspots

Friday, September 29

Morning concurrent sessions
Closing plenary
Box lunches available (added fee)
Afternoon Field trips (added fee)