



*Michigan Wetlands Association*  
**Conference 2023**

**Visions for the Future**

**September 12 – 15, 2023**

*Radisson Plaza at Kalamazoo Center  
Kalamazoo, Michigan*

The conference will take place at the Radisson Plaza at Kalamazoo Center, in downtown Kalamazoo within walking distance of top area highlights-including restaurants, boutiques, and craft breweries.





[Click Here ▶](#)

# for Full Conference Agenda

## Opening and Closing Plenary Keynote Speakers

**Bodwéwadmí Historical and Continued Presence in Gzizmezé – Lakota Hobia**, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians (Gun Lake Tribe)

**The Importance of Wetlands and Source Water Protection in the Great Lakes Basin – Tom Zimnicki**, Alliance for the Great Lakes

**Protecting People and the Environment – Regina Strong**, the Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate for the State of Michigan, Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE)

**Climate Change and What it Means for the Great Lakes – Jonathan Overpeck**, Ph.D. and Dean, School for Environment and Sustainability, University of Michigan

**Using Landscape Ecosystems to Improve Land Management – Denny Albert**, Ph.D., Oregon State University

**Project Clarity: Restoring a Watershed through Community Collaboration – Travis Williams**, CEO, ODC Network

## Concurrent Sessions

**Current Topics in Wetland Science** – monitoring, climate change adaptation, vernal pool research, wetland mapping, and more

**Protecting Michigan’s Wetlands, Lakes, and Streams (Sponsored by EGLE)** – updates on Michigan’s wetlands, lakes, and stream regulatory programs, information and updates from federal agencies, rare species, environmental justice, and more

**Wetlands Restoration and Stewardship** – wild rice protection and stewardship, invasive species, lake shoreline and shallows, BMPS, wetland restorations, and more

## Networking and Socializing

- Gathering at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts the evening of September 13 (separate registration fee required)
- Evening Reception at the Radisson on September 14 (included with registration)



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# Tuesday Workshop Descriptions

## The Michigan Stream Quantification Tool (MiSQT)

This workshop will be an introduction to the Michigan Stream Quantification Tool (MiSQT) including how it works, desktop analysis, field data collection methods, calculations of field values, the catchment assessment form, and how to enter the values and interpret the results. Sponsored by EGLE and presented by Bethany Matousek (EGLE), John Saltanovitz (EGLE), and Jeremie Wilson (MDOT).

## Application of the Great Lakes Coastal Monitoring for Wetland Management

This workshop will bring together organizations from across the Great Lakes basin that contribute to and utilize the data from the Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Project, with the goal increasing communication and information dissemination and applications of monitoring and assessment results. The workshop is being held for land managers, wetland practitioners, researchers, state agencies, tribes, conservation and environmental organizations, and others. Topics covered will include: Data results, website and database functionality, habitat projects and academic research that have been implemented utilizing the data collected from the project, and exploring and sharing ideas for how these results can inform future management and restoration of coastal wetlands. Sponsored by EGLE and presented by the Great Lakes Coastal Monitoring Project Principal Investigators.

## Protecting Michigan's Reptiles and Amphibians: Tools and BMPs

This workshop will delve into some of the comprehensive amphibian and reptile conservation and management tools that have been developed by Herpetological Resource and Management (HRM) in recent years with funding from EGLE. The recently updated *Michigan Amphibian & Reptile Best Management Practices, Second Edition*, provides information and recommendations for protecting and restoring herpetofauna species and habitat to inform development, land management, and restoration. The *Herpetofaunal Habitat Assessment Tool* (Herp HAT) is a newly developed tool which can be used by wetland managers and resource professionals to evaluate the herpetofaunal habitat value provided by different wetlands. The workshop will introduce these tools, best management recommendations, data collection methods, and their application in order to improve wetland management and protection of Michigan's amphibians and reptiles. Sponsored by EGLE and presented by David Mifsud.





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# Friday Afternoon Field Trip Descriptions

## Kick Back and Kayak the Kzoo

After the conference, come relax and kayak the Kalamazoo River. The half-day trip will begin near Fort Custer State Park and continue downstream towards Galesburg. The trip will include scenic views of the river and wildlife viewing opportunities. Bald eagles are frequently spotted in the area. Attendees will meet next to the Time Out Lounge at 1:00 PM. Mainstream Tackle and Outdoors will provide all equipment needed and bus participants upstream to the starting location to allow them to float back to the Time Out Lounge parking lot. The kayak trip is expected to last 3 to 4 hours.

## Wild for Wetland Monitoring

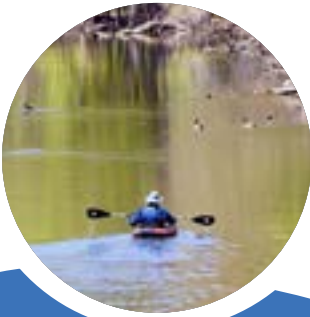
Join EGLE staff for a demonstration of Michigan's Wetland Monitoring Program protocols. The Michigan Wetlands Monitoring and Assessment Strategy includes an objective to assess statewide wetland quality through a routine wetland monitoring program. Visit a Kalamazoo-area wetland and learn about the monitoring program, data collection methods, and how the information is used to support the State's wetland protection program. We will cover point verification, establishing an assessment area, surveying the vegetation for presence and cover, and completing the MiRAM. This field trip will be of great interest to wetland professionals, land managers or stewards, tribes, agencies, or anyone interested in seeing a day in the life working in wetland monitoring. We recommend having knee boots, insect repellent, sunscreen, a hat, water, and any other gear you will need for several hours in a wetland field site.

## MWA "Mud Ball" Golf Scramble

Join us for the Michigan Wetlands Association Golf Outing at the Milham Park Golf Club, located in Kalamazoo, MI. Gather three of your friends, family, or coworkers for this unique golf outing! This 4-person scramble-style 9-hole golf event will bring people together and generate revenue for the Michigan Wetlands Association. During this event, you will have the opportunity to learn about a great ecological success story of the Portage Creek dam removal and stream restoration project bordering Hole 13 (bring several golf balls as you may donate a few to the stream in this challenging Par 3). A beverage cart will be available during the outing. \*Note: One person pays for the team during registration.

## Meet the Amphibians and Reptiles of South Central Michigan

Come join us for a half-day trip focused on identification, natural history, and habitat use of amphibians and reptiles of the greater Kalamazoo area. This region is a hotspot for Michigan herpetofauna richness and we will explore some typical habitats of the region and discuss the role herpetofauna play and what to look for when surveying for them. Species you may encounter (weather dependent) include Spotted Turtle, Eastern Box Turtle, Musk Turtle, Fowler's Toads, Pickerel Frog's, Blanchard's Cricket Frog, Eastern Massasagua Rattlesnake, Eastern Hog-nosed Snake, and Blue Racer to name a few. This field trip is planned for 3-4 hours in the field. Attendees should plan to bring water and any food they may need with them. Prior to the field trip, folks will be asked to clean and decontaminate their field gear to avoid any transmission of pathogens or invasives. We will also provide spray bottle with 10% bleach solution.



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## Other Activities

### Exhibits

The Exhibit Area will be open during breaks, meals, and the Thursday evening reception.

### 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 [matthew.carmer@cmsenergy.com](mailto:matthew.carmer@cmsenergy.com)

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## Venue

### Reserve Lodging

Reserve your room by calling (269) 343-3333 and indicate that you are with the MWA Conference.

[Click Here ▶](#)

## to Register

### Registration

The conference is open to both members and non-members. Attendees will include participation from state, federal, and local agencies; private consulting firms; colleges and universities; conservation and environmental organizations; and other interested citizens. The conference registration fee includes plenary and concurrent sessions, break snacks and lunches, an evening reception, and networking and social activities. Workshops, field trips, and an evening reception at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts can be added to your registration for a small additional fee. Registration ends September 5.



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# Sponsorship

**We invite your organization to consider supporting the Michigan Wetlands Association Conference 2023.** Sponsor benefits include conference registration, recognition in printed materials and on the website, and exhibit space. Sponsorships are available at 5 levels. To become a sponsor or for additional information, please contact Todd Losee, at [tlosee@niswander-env.com](mailto:tlosee@niswander-env.com)

## \$10,000+ Mitchells Satyr Butterfly

- Name/logo/link on conference website
- Full -page ad in program agenda
- Listing in the program agenda
- Five full conference registrations w/sponsorship ID badges
- 1 prime exhibit space
- Logo on conference signage

## \$5,000 – \$9,999: Eastern Massasauga

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

## \$750 – \$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





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## Agenda-at-a-glance

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| <b>Tuesday, September 12</b>   | Workshops (added fee)<br>Exhibitor set-up<br>MWA Business Meeting<br>Informal Social Gatherings at the Sports Bar at the Radisson or around town (on your own) |
| <b>Wednesday, September 13</b> | Exhibitor set-up<br>Registration<br>Opening Plenary<br>Lunch<br>Reception at Kalamazoo Institute of Arts (added fee)   |
| <b>Thursday, September 14</b>  | Morning and afternoon concurrent sessions<br>Lunch<br>Afternoon Concurrent sessions<br>Reception   |
| <b>Friday, September 15</b>    | Morning concurrent session<br>Closing plenary<br>Box lunches available (added fee)<br>Afternoon Field trips (added fee)  |